



Papyrus

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS

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President's Report

Dear FOBG Members,

Welcome to another fantastic newsletter – thank you so much to all contributors, and of course to Jill, who does such a splendid and generous job as editor!

What a glorious Autumn we are experiencing! Shortly I shall be leaving these shores for nine weeks, and I am finding myself thinking

“Whatever am I doing leaving Melbourne at this glorious time of year!” Because Autumn is surely when Melbourne shines! Yesterday I took the opportunity to walk in our precious Burnley Gardens. Autumn is reaching its crescendo there. I urge you all to make time for a visit over the next month or so. Never have the gardens looked better! I'd like to congratulate Sascha and her team on the excellent standard of maintenance. I was particularly impressed by the new creative mowing regime: next time you visit, take a close look at the central lawn area around the Luffman Ponds: sinuous swathes of longer turf reflect the curves of the ponds. This adds marvellous, soft texture to the whole area. Simple yet inspirational!

Challenges to our organisation sadly persist – existential challenges?... For some time, the Committee has been troubled by poor attendance at some of our events. This is most disappointing, given that so much work goes on behind the scenes to ensure that our programme remains relevant and interesting. We shall shortly be sending out a Survey Monkey to all members to ascertain what you find most valuable about our organisation, and to seek your ideas and suggestions.

Also of concern, is the fact that our Committee has remained stable for quite some time. We do need to attract new faces onto the Committee, and younger ones at that!

President's Report *continued*

This is my tenth year on the Committee, and now I must report, with a heavy heart, that I shall not be standing again as President at the next AGM. My workload has increased in other areas, and I do feel somewhat 'burnt out'. In addition to this Dr. Andrea Bendrups, who has been a real stalwart on the Committee, is relocating to the country and will not stand again for election. Andrea's energetic, sensible and proactive contribution in so many areas has been enormous and is truly appreciated by the Committee. She will be very hard to replace!

But here's the thing: we must keep finding committed people who can keep our organisation active, alive and relevant! Our Gardens – and indeed all botanical gardens—are simply too precious for us to drop the ball on. Please ask yourself whether you might be able to step up – the Gardens need you! And we need younger people! (At present it's clearly an older demographic which is the backbone of our organisation.)

Personally, I believe that our wonderful, dynamic Director of Gardens, Sascha Andrusiak, is a perfect rôle model: not only is she clearly on top of the maintenance needs of the Gardens, but she seems to be endowed with remarkable energy and enthusiasm. She maintains an excellent rapport with the graduate students at Burnley, and has valuable 'tentacles' to the broader horticultural community. Bravo Sascha!



In other news, we were thrilled that Professor David Karoly accepted our invitation to speak to the Friends in April. Whilst attendance was good, as an informed member said to me before the event: "You'll fill the Hall twice over with him!" Well, we didn't and we should have... Where were all our 200+ members?! To the 20 or so people who attempted to view on Zoom, we apologise for the sound problems. This was

an issue beyond our control and hopefully the University will be able to rectify the situation. *Read some of what you may have missed on page 12, with a link to the PDF of the talk.*

President's Report *continued*

There have been numerous questions about the progress of the Burnley Gardens Book, Michele Adler's lovely volume on our Gardens. There have been a few issues with final editing and production. An update will be provided at our forthcoming Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 16 August, and the book should be available relatively soon.

"It must be said that The Friends could not have achieved all that we have without the hard work of our subgroups, the Friendly Guides, and the Propagation Group. The Prop Group's regular plant sales raise really significant amounts of money which all goes towards the gardens. To all members of the Group: a very big THANK YOU! And to the Friendly Guides - thank you too for your ongoing contribution to the work of FOBG. Special mention to Cheryl Andrews who as well as organising the membership and working with the Prop Group, spends many hours at the label making machine, and to Jane Wilson who runs the Burnley Archives, discovering, recording and saving Burnley's history."

In conclusion, I wish to record that it has been an honour and a pleasure for me to have been involved over the past 10 years with the FOBG Committee. I have met so many inspiring and interesting people. No President could ever have worked with such a dedicated, hard-working and supportive Committee. Naturally I look forward to an ongoing involvement with this great and vitally important organisation.

Sincere thanks to:

- **Dr. Jacquie Chirgwin (Secretary)**
- **Kirsten Binns Smith (Treasurer)**
- **Dr. Andrea Bendrups (Vice President)**
- **Cheryl Andrews (Membership Secretary & much more)**
- **Dr. Susan Murphy (expert horticultural Committee member)**
- **Di Cranston (Catering Queen extraordinaire)**
- **Chris Morrissey (Wise Committee member of many years)**
- **Diane Beddison (Newer Committee member, Webmaster)**
- **Jill Kellow (Newsletter Editor and Facebook;)**

Sandra McMahon

Retiring President, FOBG.

Er...um.. where are the MALES...?!

Membership and Propagation Group Reports

by Cheryl Andrews - Membership Coordinator



Since the previous Papyrus Newsletter No 77 in Summer 2022, our membership has increased to 208 members. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 5 new members who have recently joined our group.

Members of the 20 Year Club

There is one more 20-Year member for the period November 2002 to April 2003 inclusive - Julie Elliott.

Well done Julie, and thank you very much for your great contribution.

Propagation Group

The Propagation Group is regularly meeting on Wednesday mornings. 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.

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



Vale Carol Ferguson

The Friends were notified by her husband Bryce earlier in the year of the passing of long- time member Carol Ferguson. Carol had long association with Burnley and with the Friends.

Carol studied the Advanced Certificate of Horticulture at Burnley as a mature age student, graduating in 2002. During her studies she worked in the Nursery and joined the FOBG. She served on the committee in various roles – as treasurer, newsletter editor and membership secretary.

Carol was passionate and enthusiastic in her commitments and had meticulous organising skills. An asset to any new organisation!

She had a broad range of gardening interests, including attending Garden History Society events, Australian Plant Society rroups, Greenlinc Box Hill and Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, where she served as a gardening ambassador for around ten years. Notes from Barb Brookes and Jan Chamberlain



Carol on her Graduation Day at Burnley
Photo Barb Brookes

Michele Adler was President of the Friends for a long period when Carol was a committee member. Michele remembers “Carol was very much missed when she retired from the Friends Committee. She spent a huge amount of time organising the members lists, making name tags and organising merchandise for sale. She was always willing to step in when needed for functions like our Open Days.”

FOBG founder Sandi Pullman also had a nice personal memory of Carol. Sandi says “Oh she had an excellent eye for combining colours. I remember going to her house and was blown away at how the plants matched her house’s paint work.”

Vale Carol. Thank you for your years of dedicated work for the Burnley Gardens

From the Gardens by Sascha Andrusiak



Dear Friends of Burnley Gardens,

A year has already flown by since I took the helm managing the Burnley Gardens, and it has been a huge learning curve! In the first few months I relied heavily on the kindness of my predecessor Andrew Smith, who was always available via mobile phone and email for the myriad of important questions that arose regarding campus operations and gardens. Jane Wilson in the archives also helped me to understand the history of the site and has been an invaluable source of

information – she is truly a gift to Burnley. I have also been blessed with a fabulous team of full time Horticulturalists: Sam Zitkevicius (team leader), Maria Brandani, and Prue Bathgate. They care for the gardens with pride and passion, and it shows! The Friends of Burnley Gardens have worked tirelessly to regain ground lost during COVID and I am in great admiration of the time and effort the committee puts into caring for our beautiful gardens. We are so lucky to have such a devoted group of people in the FOBG.



The Rose Garden in full bloom featuring *Gladiolus* species (*G. Tristis?*), aquilegia, Portland roses and *Iris germanica* cultivars.

From the Gardens *by Sascha Andrusiak continued*

While we have made a few small changes in the gardens this year, I have spent most of my time familiarising myself with the plants and people within. We have made a few additions to the Hilda Kirkhope rockery (opposite the Main Building entrance), including additional species of *Echeveria*, *Graptoveria*, *Chrysanthemum* and *Narcissus* in the main rockery, and plantings of *Allium giganteum*, *Papaver rhoeas* 'Amazing Grey' and 'Pandora', and various varieties of cosmos in the surrounding garden. We are working toward the rejuvenation of the rose garden and hope to get all our bare rooted stock in during winter. We have also underplanted with foxgloves and delphiniums which provide some interest when the aquilegias have finished flowering.

Sam has recently become enamoured with selective mowing, and we have some interesting designs, including a temporary "Meadow" in the bull paddock and swathes of long grass designs next to the Luffman ponds. Selective mowing is becoming very popular in England and Europe to encourage biodiversity in council areas. Our selective mowing at Burnley has been well received and encouraged by many of our academic staff and our visitors who feel it adds another layer of interest to the gardens.

This year's flower show in the native grasslands was spectacular, with *Ptilotus*, *Vittedenia*, flax, milk maids and many more making a cherished appearance. The extra rainfall and judicious weeding helped a lot!

We are looking toward a chilly winter, but most of the data coming out of the climate models recently is suggesting that we are heading straight into several years of high temperatures thereafter. Likely the hottest summers we have ever experienced. Managing the Burnley gardens into a warmer future is also at the forefront of my mind as we head toward El Nino.

With warmest wishes,
Sascha Andrusiak

Photos by Sascha Andrusiak

Sasch couldn't resist taking a pic of this Cadillac parked outside the Main Building!



The Burnley Guides Report *by Judith Scurfield*



The small but dedicated group of Guides has continued to prepare for and lead tours of the Gardens over the past couple of months, and we have been very pleased to welcome a new member, Angela Wallace, to our ranks. If anyone else would like to join us, we would, of course, be delighted,

Tours have been given to the Friends of the Johnston Collection, and Mont Albert North Probus Club, with between 18 and 20 people in each group. The Gardens have been looking delightful in this Autumn weather, and we were blessed with sunshine on both occasions.

The Guides also visit other gardens to get an idea of what visitors like to see and hear about. Our most recent visit was to Heide Gallery, where our member Sue Hay volunteers, so she and her colleagues there were excellent guides. We were very impressed with the productive kitchen garden (having tasted some of the produce as part of our lunch in the cafe), and with the indigenous garden.



Kitchen Garden at Heide. Thank you to Sue for arranging this visit for us.

Horticultural therapy at Austin Health—planting the seed for health and well being, with Steven Wells



Steven Wells is another of Burnley's graduates of whom we are extremely proud. Steven is Gardens & Grounds Coordinator, and Horticultural Therapist at Austin Health, in Heidelberg Victoria. Steven started work at Austin Health in 1998 and has combined his careers of nursing and horticulture to now be working in a combination of roles across his week.

Spending time in garden spaces is important for our health and wellbeing.

In hospital settings, gardens provide us with an opportunity to relax, help to reduce stress, and offer a place of respite and retreat for patients, visitors and staff.

While Steven primarily manages the gardens and grounds and develops new garden spaces, he also works as a Registered Nurse on the Acquired Brain Injury Unit and as a Horticultural Therapist at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre. He has also been undertaking an intermittent short-term role providing staff well being.

Steven says "As a passionate gardener and long-term advocate for the therapeutic benefits of gardens, I love my work because I know that it makes a difference.



Sensory Gardens at the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre

Horticultural therapy at Austin Health

Gardens and gardening provide so much for us - physically, psychologically and emotionally,” says Steven.

“I get enjoyment from seeing patients, visitors and staff enjoying the garden spaces and hearing of their experiences physically, psychologically and emotionally,” says Steven. “I get enjoyment from seeing patients, visitors and staff enjoying the garden spaces and hearing of their experiences of using the gardens or attending their horticulture sessions.”



Veterans Gardens vergola at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital

Steven has been a guest presenter on Gardening Australia, and The Royal Talbot gardens have been featured on several television shows, as well as in a number of magazines and publications. Steven was also awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2015 to travel overseas to research more about the development, use and management of therapeutic gardens in healthcare settings.

Text (edited JK) and images from Austin Health.

Valentine's Day celebration under the Wisteria Arbor

In what has now become a Friends' tradition we started the FOBG year with a splendid dinner provided by committee member and caterer Diane Cranston, in the glorious setting of the Wisteria Walk, followed by a delightfully entertaining talk by **Bill Bampton of Heronswood**, in which we found out what Bill means by his intriguing title "un-gardening".



Victoria's Open Garden scheme, with Liz Fazio



In March we heard from Liz Fazio, President of Victoria's Open Garden Scheme. Liz told us how when the former Open Gardens Australia folded, many felt that Open Gardens must be kept going in some form. Some of the committee of OGA, including Liz, were able to form the new Open Gardens Victoria. This must have been a considerable task, as OGA were not able to pass on any of their documentation, and OGV had to be started from scratch.

As well as showing us photos of beautiful gardens, Liz told us how the job of President required her to undertake tasks that she never imagined she would have to do—such as driving into the country to fetch portaloos! OGV is much more on-line than its OGA predecessor, which makes it a more nimble organization—changes can be easily made to the program, and some events and workshops can be held on line. The committee has three subcommittees, and the organization is thriving, with 40,000 on-line followers, to the extent that they are now able to have paid staff.

The roles of Botanic Gardens and Vegetation in Climate Change: Impacts and solutions with Emeritus Professor David Karoly



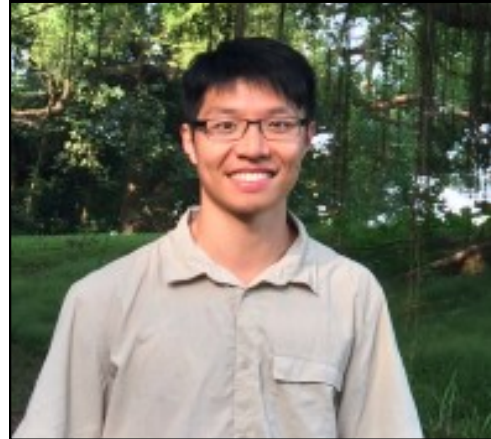
David Karoly is internationally recognised as a world leader in climate dynamics and climate change science. In his early research, he carried out pioneering studies that provided the theoretical basis for understanding observed linkages between climate anomalies at large distances across the globe. He identified, for the first time, the links between El

Niño–Southern Oscillation events and variations of the Southern Hemisphere Circulation. His research has led the development of methods for the detection and attribution of climate change, most recently for extreme climate events. David is also an international leader in the public communication of climate science.

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Research at Burnley with students Julia and Paul

At the latest of our monthly talks, two of Burnley's PhD candidates presented their research. **Paul Cheung** (left) joined Burnley in 2020. He is currently researching the use of irrigation to reduce heat stress in urban green spaces, using both experimental and modelling techniques to quantify the cooling benefits of irrigating urban green spaces.



Paul says: private backyards are important spaces for social and children's activities because they are secure and easily accessible. However, climate change will lead to a warmer climate in many parts of the world, which may prevent people from using their backyards in the warmer periods of the year. Cooling strategies are needed to improve thermal comfort in backyards. In addition to greening, irrigation is a promising cooling strategy because it can allow evapotranspiration on vegetated surfaces, thereby reducing air and surface temperatures. Paul's study used a field experiment to measure the cooling benefits of irrigating turf in a backyard environment in summer. The results showed that irrigating turf can significantly reduce daytime air temperature and turf surface temperature. The daytime mean air temperature reduction by irrigation was comparable to that of tree shade.

Julia Schiller's PhD research focuses on the habitat and connectivity value of vegetated rooftops, also known as green roofs, on urban pollinators. She applied a mix of observational studies, experiments, remote sensing and modelling to understand how native bees benefit from human engineered green spaces, such as green roofs. Julia says: globally, urbanisation causes land use change and densification, which are major threats for biodiversity. In highly urbanised areas where green spaces are scarce, the installation of green roofs could add habitat or facilitate movement between higher quality ground-level habitat. With my PhD research project, I aimed to understand the importance of green roofs for native bees in Melbourne.



Continued on page 28

Burnley Graduate No 21 May 2023 Gareth Holmes

Years at Burnley: 1993-1996; 1997-2000

Course(s) studied: Bachelor of Applied Science, Master of Applied Science

Favourite subject: There were so many well-presented subjects at Burnley so it's hard to pin it down to one. Besides the much-loved plant ID walks (and the numerous rolls of slightly-out-of-focus plant photos that we

took as part of it), I really enjoyed the three semesters of Plant Science and using some of my artistic skills in Landscape Studies.

Favourite plant: There are so many plants that I love, but I never get sick of seeing twisted and gnarled *Eucalyptus pauciflora* growing at the tree line in the high country.



I decided to go to Burnley because:

I grew up in country Victoria where I would regularly explore the nearby bush with my family. My parents also established a two-acre garden around our home which was an amazing playground for me - I loved watching the landscape changing with the seasons and observing biodiversity in my own backyard. I ended up helping to look after the garden and started propagating indigenous and exotic species as a hobby and trying to identify the plants in the area. I thought about becoming a chef, or an engineer, but Biology became my favourite subject in year 12, so with the combination of my love of plant cultivation, landscape management and science, studying horticulture at Burnley (then VCAH) seemed a natural choice. The small campus size and amazing gardens on site were also a big drawcard.

Burnley Graduate No 21 May 2023 Gareth Holmes

Since I graduated from Burnley I have:

While undertaking a Masters degree part-time in the field of plant breeding for ornamental horticulture, I worked as a gardener, a research assistant in the Centre for Urban Horticulture and at Fleming's Nursery. After graduating, I took on a role as a Horticultural Researcher at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) supporting the establishment of the Australian Garden at the Cranbourne site. A subsequent year-long stint in Europe made me realise that working in bars and biscuit factories was not a long-term option for me. After returning a few kilograms heavier (and engaged to be married!) I commenced a PhD in the field of conservation biology with Prof. Ary Hoffman's group at the Centre for Environmental Stress and Adaptation Research. My study (wisely guided by Liz James at the RBGV) involved a molecular phylogenetic study of the holly-leaved grevilleas followed by a pollination biology and population genetic study of the rare Creeping Grevillea, *Grevillea repens* (which just happens to grow in the bush around my childhood hometown).

In the years afterwards, I was fortunate to work with a range of highly talented people in an arboricultural consultancy (Homewood Consulting) and in groups



Burnley Graduate No 21 May 2023 Gareth Holmes

based at the University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, and Landcare Research in New Zealand during which I was able to utilise my skills in the fields of genetics and pollination biology.

More recently, I've become part of the furniture at the RBGV contributing to research in a broad range of plant and fungal (and even insect) studies often utilising genetic approaches such as DNA barcoding, whole genome sequencing, phylogenomics, and population genomics. I've been involved in several projects with the Genomics for Australian Plants (GAP) initiative (genomicsforaustralianplants.com) including the generation of a reference genome sequence for our national floral emblem (*Acacia pycnantha*). The tools now available for genetic studies with direct implications for taxonomy, biodiversity assessment and conservation have improved incredibly during the last decade and never cease to amaze me.

I still have great memories of my studies and the people at Burnley and some of my closest friends I met way back on that first day of semester 1 in 1993! I can only hope that future generations of undergraduate and postgraduate students can have such a positive experience with their studies.

The roles of Botanic Gardens and Vegetation in Climate Change: Impacts and solutions Continued



In April, Professor Karoly gave an enthralling talk to the Friends, in which he described the critical state of our climate, in which he emphasised the important contribution of gardens, especially botanical gardens such as Burnley's, in providing solutions to some of the problems climate change will cause.

These include monitoring of plants and their environment, and demonstrating the benefits of plants in such areas as modifying heat waves and capturing carbon from the atmosphere. This excellent talk is available to members as a PDF.

To access it, type or paste this link into your browser. <http://www.fobg.org.au/blog/members-only/>

Vale Jill Bryant

The Friends are sad to learn of the passing of Jill Bryant, a long time member of the Herb Society who are great supporters of the Burnley Gardens. Jill has given numerous talks for the Friends on herb-related topics—the last was on tree herbs, in May 2022. The flyer for Jill's talk contained these words about Jill:

"Jill has been a gardener for 70 years and passionate about herbs for over 40 years. Throughout all this time she has been very actively involved with the Herb Society of Victoria, and has written many articles for the **Herbage** magazine. Having studied Latin at school and Botany at University, botanic names came easily to her. A Secondary Teacher of English, Literature, History and even Horticulture for 54 years, she is a lover of antiques, and her collection of books and herbal antiques is extensive. Her pill-making machine from the 1850s is her treasure!"

The Guides saw these corrugated cows grazing in the pastures at Heide during their visit to the Gallery and Gardens.

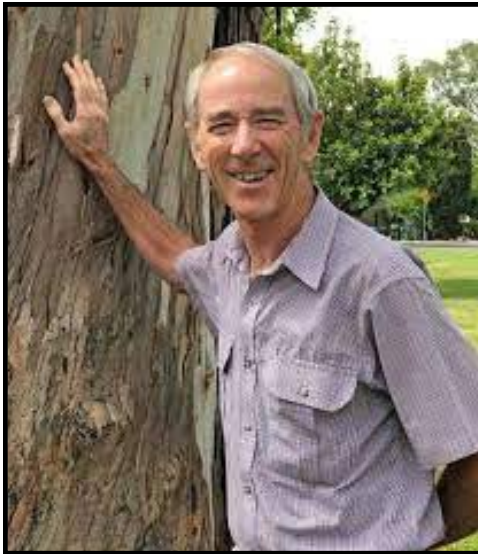


Would you like to learn more about the history and development of our beautiful heritage-listed Burnley Gardens, and then pass on your insights to visitors? If so, you might like to join our small bunch of Friendly Guides, who take tours of the Gardens for small or large groups.

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

Eulogy for the trees by Greg Moore



Greg says :

"I was asked to deliver a "eulogy" for the trees lost for the NELP* at a community action/protest at Watsonia. About 70 people were present. I decided to write the eulogy just as I have done for family and some Burnley related funerals. It has not been published although it may be on a couple of community group websites. I thought the Burnley family might be interested.

North East Link Project

"The trees are gone. We and our society have lost them. They stood as silent sentinels for decades and some a century or more, providing environmental and ecological services. They cooled us in Autumn, filtered the air we breathe, quietened the noise of the hustle and bustle around us and their presence increased the value of our homes.

They did all of this at little cost and with less recognition. They helped us live better lives, but now they are gone; cut down in their prime – they are not the only things that have been lost.

Trees and green space are vital for a proper human existence. Can we really have forgotten that the planet that we know as earth is the earth we know because of plants, trees and greenspace? Without plants there would be no life as we know it, and certainly no human life. Gone are the trees under which children played with parents and grandparents on balmy Autumn days. The memories of important family milestones in so many lives persist still, but in a generation or two they too will be lost - they are not the only things that have been lost.

It is curious that despite knowing that the presence of trees and greenspace in the vicinity of where you live leads to increased human longevity, better human health and lower State and na-

tional health costs, we are still removing trees in our cities and towns. From a mega-data study on women's health in the USA, we know that in treed greenspaces, women live longer, use fewer proscribed medications, give birth to babies with higher birth weights and are hospitalised less for shorter durations. These are huge benefits to the women who live in these places, but they save billions in health care costs. When trees are removed they are not the only things that are lost.

Eulogy for the trees by Greg Moore

Australian research tells us that if there were more treed open spaces available to those living in urbanised areas, a massive \$5 billion could be saved from the nation's annual medical bill for type-2 diabetes, blood pressure and cardiac related diseases. The researchers pointed out that the reason for the savings is not rocket science: if treed open spaces are available more people will exercise and these illnesses relate to a lack of physical activity, weight gain and obesity. When trees are removed unnecessarily, they may not be the only ones who are lost.

Treed open space meets basic human physical, mental and psychological health needs that have their origins in human evolution. Navigating a large and connected green-space engages many senses –sight, hearing, smell, and perhaps taste and touch - at once, which activates various parts of the brain and hones a suite of spatial problem solving skills. Finding your way requires purpose, planning, patience and memory if you have travelled there before – it is multi-tasking *par excellence*.



The Sugar Gum, lost from Burnley. Some may remember it. It remains as a fine dining table and seating in the Gardens

These experiences facilitate full human development from infancy to adulthood as the brain's dopamine secreting neurones are stimulated impacting on motivation, attention and persistence. Without treed green-spaces can we even imagine what else is lost?

Trees sequester carbon and provide diverse microhabitats that may accommodate fifty or more other species. They are essential to biodiversity and allow humans to connect with nature in urban sites. Without trees the futures of native birds, insects, reptiles and fungi are put at risk too. When trees are removed they are not the only things that are lost.

***Eulogy for the trees* by Greg Moore**

The health and social benefits of recreation are well-known and the venues for such activities are public open spaces under local government control. It is easy to think that these facilities bolster urban green space and provide opportunities for greater canopy cover. However, more club rooms, car parks and hard surfaces are seeing a gradual erosion of green space, even within older recreation reserves. With the increase in the demand for ovals and pitches and the massive increases in women's sport, there is enormous pressure on public open space to remove trees for more playing surfaces and facilities. There is no argument against fostering greater participation in recreation, but why is there no strategy for preserving or increasing open green space due to these pressures as climate changes. When trees are removed the value of our greenspace is lost.



There is a strong correlation between the degree of tree canopy cover and the socio economic status (SES) of where people live. Greener, leafier suburbs tend to have a higher SES. People who live in these suburbs are healthier and live longer. We know it is a correlation not simple cause and effect, but in these greener and leafier suburbs, crime rates are lower, there is less violence, vandalism and graffiti; educational outcomes at all levels are higher.

Eulogy for the trees by Greg Moore

Greater health benefits accrue to disadvantaged sectors of communities from the provision and use of treed open space which can be a mechanism for addressing social inequality. When trees and greenspace are lost who knows what else we have lost?

From the air it is painfully obvious that not every suburb, town or region is equally served by treed open space. Worldwide the most impoverished sectors of societies with lower SES are the most disadvantaged in their access to and use of treed open space. This is true of Australia's cities, regional centres and many country towns where some places seem to be completely devoid of green. We can see how disconnected the green patches and corridors of our landscapes and urban environments have become. It is astonishing to see developments of small blocks and large houses that could have been plucked from the new suburbs of any major Australian city fringing hot, inland towns. When trees are lost, the potential for coping with climate change is also lost.

Trees have a vital role to play in making cities sustainable and liveable as climate changes, warms and dries. The subdivision of older homes involves the loss of mature trees on private land, but there is an assumption that these losses will be compensated by street tree planting. This is pure fantasy – the large old house and block transforms into four townhouses with four driveways which leave little, if any, space in the nature strip for the planting of sizeable trees. There is a spiral into greater canopy decline. When trees are lost on private land some of the potential to deal with climate change is lost.

The urban heat island (UHI) effect means that parts of cities, regional centres and even smaller towns can experience much higher day and night temperatures than the land that surrounds them. These higher temperatures, particularly during heatwaves can contribute to higher rates of ambulance call outs, hospitalisations and heatwave related deaths. The simplest, easiest and cheapest ways to cool cities is by increasing tree canopy cover. However, despite knowing the value of tree canopy cover in reducing UHIs, in most Australian cities canopy cover is declining. In Melbourne, the loss is at a rate of 1-1.5% per annum, mostly due to the removal of trees on private land – front and back yards - for more intense housing development. This is a serious concern for cities and towns anticipating population increase and future densification. When trees are lost during climate change and future heatwaves, lives will be lost.

Eulogy for the trees by Greg Moore

During the covid-19 lockdowns, high level concerns about people's physical health, capacities for coping with stress, increased risks of self harm and domestic violence and the learning environments of children, saw people flock to local parks, gardens and riverside reserves in unprecedented numbers. Such places were vital assets in coping with the pandemic. It also became clear that the most disadvantaged members of the community were further disadvantaged and subjected to higher levels of stress, because of the lack of accessible treed open space. There will be future pandemics and one wonders when trees are lost whether the hard lessons of covid and the importance of treed open space have also been lost.

Research tells us that to maximise the benefits provided by trees and their canopy cover, we should be aspiring to a canopy cover of 30%. However, there is insufficient public space in many Australian municipalities to achieve a 30% tree canopy cover, and this is further threatened by tree removals. There must be contributions from trees growing on private front and back yards, but that too is put at risk by re-development and housing infill. How is it possible, given rising temperatures that state planning laws continue to ignore the value of trees and open space? When trees are lost at the time we need them most, is it a sustainable, liveable future that is lost? Public parks and gardens served their purpose admirably during covid-19 lockdowns and given the opportunity and proper planning they will do so again, helping cities to cope with climate change. Providing large and well-connected treed green space is essential urban green infrastructure under conditions of increased urban populations and climate change, not as a luxury for a privileged minority, but as a vital component of a sustainable economy for the majority and a right of all. Treed green space is not an option but essential as societies cannot afford it to be otherwise! When trees, open space, green space and canopy cover are lost from cities and suburbs society as a whole has lost.

The trees are gone. They are lost. The trees are gone we are lost.

Greg Moore

Burnley at MIFGS 2023

“A colourful garden display at this year’s MIFGS [Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show](#) in Melbourne’s Carlton Gardens illustrates findings from the [Woody Meadow research project](#) based at Burnley campus, which is developing attractive, affordable, and low-maintenance public plantings for our roadsides, railway sidings, verges, and parkland, to make Australian cities more liveable.



The garden was a collaboration between landscape architects from [Hassell](#) architects, floral and garden designers from [Super Bloom](#), and University of Melbourne horticulture researchers. Associate Professor Claire Farrell said the MIFGS display garden is an invitation to reimagine what is possible in public landscapes, demonstrating how climate-appropriate plantings can be aesthetically rich and highly varied in species and plant forms.

“We use natural shrublands as templates for woody meadows that are easily maintained; hard pruning or coppicing of the woody plants promotes flowering and dense growth that excludes weeds and saves money,” Associate Professor Farrell said.

The Woody Meadow project is a partnership involving the Australian Research Council, the Victorian Government, eight city councils, the University of Sheffield, and several other organisations. The project is transforming cities nationally with over 6000

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m² of plantings across Perth, Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne.

The MIFGS garden display also includes a flowery sward, which University of Melbourne Associate Professor John Rayner said showcases how plants in cities can create climate-resilient spaces for well being and beauty.

“For our MIFGS display, we have selected drought tolerant plants including annuals, perennials, succulents, and shrubs, and included an eclectic mix of Indigenous, native, and exotic species and cultivars,” Associate Professor Rayner said.

Director of Super Bloom Jac Semmler said the garden display demonstrated innovative planting design for future cities, and highlighted the collaboration behind it. Jon Hazelwood, Principal at Hassell said: “As designers of city spaces and streets, our new approaches show how resilient plantings can also be diverse and beautiful, which will hopefully inspire home gardeners too.”



Plants for the MIFGS garden were grown at the Burnley campus.

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



A very special piece of history, from Jane Wilson.

In January this year an email was passed on to me from a former student, John Baker. He had completed a Diploma of Horticultural Science in 1971 and was now living in England. He said that he was planning to visit Melbourne in February and would like to catch up with some of his cohort but had lost touch.

I gave him a contact for the University Alumni and invited him to visit the Archives and the Gardens. He came with his brother, and we spent a morning strolling around the Campus. He had many stories to tell about his time at Burnley, especially the sojourns and camps, and repeated what all the past students seem to say when they visit, that they had such a happy time here.

A few days later I mentioned his visit at a Guides' meeting and Leesa Abbinga, one of the Guides, said that she remembered him from her time at Burnley as they were in the same year. What a coincidence!

I gave Leesa his contact details and she managed to contact him while he was still in Australia. Leesa sent me the following email .



John and Leesa's Year Group. Leesa is second from right front row, John is second from right middle row.

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

"It is a wonderful memory of what studying at Burnley meant to so many past students. I didn't actually meet up with him as our calendars didn't match up and he went to Sydney then was staying quite a way away with family. We did speak for a good while on the phone and relived a lot of good memories. It was so good to turn back the clock. Thank you, Jane, for being there at the right time. He was really happy to meet you and grateful.

He was interested to hear of friends with whom he had lost touch and filled me in on one I hadn't known had died. I am planning a reunion of our year sometime this year if I can manage it so will get some more up to date info to pass on to him. At the least I will try to contact everyone and pass on his details for them to contact him.



Field trip to Tatura

Our group was a pretty close group, and the excursions and sojourns were wonderful experiences. On the trip to stay at Tatura Horticultural Research Station—it was interesting as we had to do some of the research work such as using a counter gadget to count buds on Peach trees and then document our results into tables (long before computers). They showed us all the research experiments, including fertilizer trials and pruning trials and new tree training trials.

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

We travelled around the area to see the scale of Horticulture in the area and spoke with orchardists. One of the career options we had was to be Field Extension Officers for the Dept of Agriculture, so this gave us a taste of it. My father and my uncle both were researchers there at the time and made sure none of us got into any mischief. I remember my father showing us around the nursery area where promising varieties were propagated before being grown on and having to pass all the required tests.

My uncle was involved with creating new varieties and then testing fruit suitability for canning. The Goulbourn Valley was a huge producer of canned fruit back in the day. SPC and Ardmona canneries employed many local folk including me during the Xmas holidays as we lived in Shepparton at that time. There was a whole tin canning setup at the research station.

My mother put on a big dinner for us all in our Shepp home one night, before we all returned to Melbourne. Other sojourns were to Mildura Research Station where we looked at Citrus and Grape growing as well as Native flora at the Big and Little Deserts. We also went on camps to the Grampians and Wilsons Prom to collect specimens for pressing for our native herbarium collections. Mr Littlejohn, the Principal, was a great Botanist and out in the field his knowledge of the flora was amazing and made up for the drier theory classes.

I am planning to be in London mid Sept and plan to go back to Kew Gardens where I worked in 1975. John said he will head down to London so we will visit Kew together. I assume it will have changed a bit in nearly 50 years but I'm sure there will be plenty of good things to see.

Overall the Burnley Experience for us was a wonderful 3 years which did give us lifelong friends even if we don't see each other often. It was a special time of our lives during our formative years.

We all have the bond of a big family. The Burnley family."

Thank you Leesa for sharing this with us.

<https://museumsandcollections.unimelb.edu.au/collections/collections/burnley-campus-archives>

Research at Burnley continued



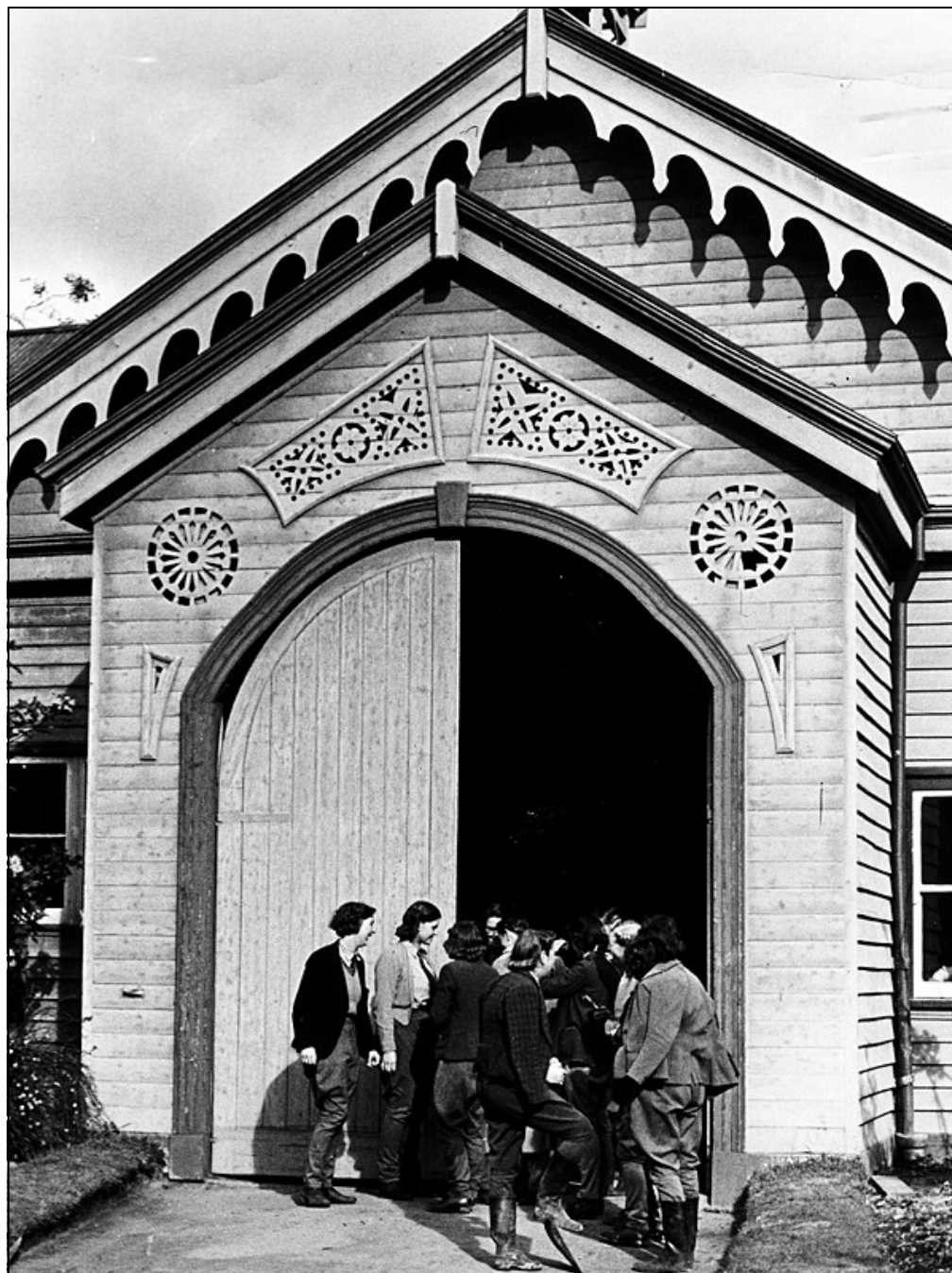
Particularly, Julia was interested in i) the number of green roofs and the area they cover within Melbourne, ii) the bee species utilising those green roofs and the factors attracting them, and iii) the value of green roofs for native bee movement across existing green spaces in the landscape.

For this Friends of Burnley Gardens Talk, Julia summarised the findings of her three different projects and suggested how this knowledge could be used to make our green spaces more bee-friendly. She also introduced the Guidelines for Biodiverse Green Roofs, which is a collaborative piece of work between the City of Melbourne and researchers from Burnley, including herself.



Bulbine bulbosa flowering in the Grasslands Garden

Finally, sincere thanks to Cheryl Andrews for a superb job of proof reading, again!



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

***NEWSLETTER
OF THE
FRIENDS OF
BURNLEY
GARDENS***

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