

BOTANIC NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MELBOURNE INC.

WINTER 1997

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am delighted that the new Governor, the Hon. Sir James Gobbo, has followed the tradition set by recent predecessors and accepted our invitation to become Patron of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens. We look forward to welcoming him to the Friends on a future occasion. Very appropriately, Lady Gobbo attended a Friends' morning function on 6 May to learn about 'the women next door', a talk about Victorian Governors' wives in the 19th century.

Melbourne's wonderful autumn has brought visitors to the Gardens in increasing numbers to enjoy the colourful and tranquil vistas. It has also assisted the activities of the Friends.

The sun shone on the Autumn Sale of the Growing Friends, which resulted in record sales. Congratulations to the Growing Friends.

Our major undertaking in this period was the seventh conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens of Victoria, held in idyllic weather on 19-20 April. The Melbourne Friends were responsible for hosting the conference this year. We were entertained and informed by nine experts who elaborated on our theme of Conservation, Collections and Community. We were delighted to have Dame Elisabeth Murdoch to open the conference and Professor Carrick Chambers to give the keynote address. In addition, the participants were fortunate in being able to visit the behind-the-scenes workings of the Herbarium, to see the state-of-the-art production of plant records and signs, and to inspect the Gardens' Nursery. Two splendid 'theme' walks in the Gardens were conducted by the Voluntary Guides.

Finally I should report that in the month of April, the combination of weather and school holidays has resulted in the Friends' Shop being constantly crowded and achieving record sales.



Learning about Governors' wives: Mrs Lesley McGarvie, Lady Gobbo and Mrs Jean McCaughey, for whom Government House in Melbourne has been home, with Lady Anna Cowen (right), wife of former Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen



Dr Philip Moors, Lady Gobbo, Mrs Marjorie Harper

The success of all our activities depends on our volunteers who work as Growing Friends, help in the Friends' Shop, organise and cater at all our functions. The smooth running of the conference, too, was the result of a very large team of helpers and for their contributions we are most grateful.

I want to thank two of our Friends who are retiring from active service. Kay Fairley was an enthusiastic contributor of innovative ideas to the Activities sub-committee and a dedicated foundation member of the Growing Friends. Since moving to Benalla Kay has been unable to visit us very often. Judy Woodfull has been a wonderful Friend and has helped in so many ways, especially as a member of the Activities sub-committee for over ten years. Whenever we needed help Judy was there; nothing was too much trouble if it meant a more successful function or trip for the Friends. On behalf of all Friends I thank Kay and Judy for their great contributions and wish them well in the future.

John Harper

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The terms of appointment of two members of the Royal Botanic Gardens Board expired in March - Mrs Anne Latreille and Mr Don Saunders. Mrs Latreille was a foundation member of the Board, being appointed in March 1992, and Mr Saunders had served since 1993 as the Minister's representative. I am most grateful for their varied contributions to the work of the Board, and for their enthusiastic support for the RBG.

The Government recently appointed two new members to these vacancies, each for a term of three years: Mr John Gough, who is Chairman of Trustees at the National Gallery of Victoria and Chairman of Pacific Dunlop Limited, and Dr Anne Astin, who is a senior executive in the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. She will be the Minister's representative on the Board. I welcome them to the Board, and look forward to their participation in the RBG's management in the years ahead.

Our Minister, Hon. Marie Tehan, launched RBG Melbourne's Draft Landscape Master Plan for public comment on 16 May. It is the first such plan for the Gardens and is the outcome of almost two years of work by RBG staff, assisted by a Reference Panel of external experts. The Board believes it is a comprehensive, sympathetic and achievable plan. It has been prepared in recognition of the need to conserve and enhance the significance of the Gardens, while adapting to changing circumstances into the next century. It is not a new design for the Gardens. Rather, it is a framework based solidly on the existing landscape values that will guide and manage change, ensuring all future development of the landscape works toward an agreed and enduring 'vision' of the Gardens.

The Master Plan is open for public comment until 27 June. Features of the plan are on display in the rear of Mueller Hall until that date and copies can be purchased from the Gardens Shop (\$10).

Funding arrangements for the Observatory Gate project are steadily nearing completion. They recently received a significant boost through a grant of \$193,600 from the Heritage Restoration Fund for high priority repair and conservation works on the historic buildings on the site. This grant, which is administered by Heritage Victoria, supplements an earlier one also made to assist the conservation of the buildings. The latest grant includes an allocation for some of the refurbishment works which will be carried out on Observatory Lodge before it becomes the new 'home' for the Friends.

W R M Irvine, Chairman

WINTER ACTIVITIES

FILM LUNCHEON: *Microcosmos*
Wednesday 18 June at 11.00am.
Trak Cinema, 445 Toorak Road, Toorak

This dazzling, brilliant film chronicles one full day in a meadow in the French countryside. It is a spectacular celebration of life with microphotography and microsound at its best. For lovers of gardens and nature it is a 'must'. The film took 15 years of research, two years of equipment design and three years of shooting; it will fill you with wonder and delight.

Lunch (sandwiches, cake, tea/coffee) will follow the film at approximately 12.30pm. Parking in Tintern Avenue or Safeway carpark.

Admission: \$11.00

RSVP on enclosed booking form by 11 June.

MICROCOSMOS. Discount Offer

Friends unable to attend the Film Luncheon may like to take advantage of a special offer to see the same film at the Kino Cinema in Collins Place.

For any session except Saturday evening, Friends showing their membership card at the box office can purchase a ticket for \$8.50, or \$6.50 for pensioners/children 15 years and under.

THE SYMBOLISM OF FLOWERS AND FRUIT AS DEPICTED ON ORIENTAL PORCELAIN

Illustrated talk by Margaret Cone

Wednesday 25 June from 10.15am
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Margaret has been involved as a tutor in the Creative Arts department of the Council of Adult Education since 1973, first in ceramics and jewellery, then in oriental ceramics when she became one of Australia's leading authorities on the subject. On several occasions she has represented Australia on international study circles of oriental ceramics, and in 1991 she led CAE's first Decorative Arts Tour of Japan. Early in 1994 she explored archaeological kiln sites in China with an international team of experts. For 13 years Margaret worked to develop and maintain the CAE's art collection, their ceramic mural, the oriental garden and the preservation of the Ola Cohn Bequest. In 1994 she was awarded the Sir Zelman Cowen Medal for her distinguished record of introducing Asian culture and achievements to the Australian public.

Morning coffee from 10.15am. Talk at 10.45am.

Admission: Friends \$8.00 Non-members \$12.00
 RSVP by 23 June on enclosed booking form

**TERRY SMYTH'S COLLECTING
EXPEDITION TO CHINA**
Illustrated talk

Monday 30 June at 8.00pm
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Terry, a senior horticulturist with the RBG, returned to China for the third time in 1996 on a plant collecting expedition to the Yunnan Province. The tour lasted fifty days and was mostly sponsored by NSW nurseryman Bob Cherry.

Terry revisited places where she had collected in 1992 and 1994 and also travelled to different areas. We will see slides of some of the areas visited, including the Wulian and Gaoligong mountain ranges, where she collected plant material suitable for our Melbourne climate.

There are now nine different *Arisaema* collections successfully growing in the new RBG seedhouse. One of the cobra lilies Terry collected flowered while in the quarantine house. Other goodies collected include *Luculia yunnanense*, *Iris wattii*, *Camellia henryana* and a dainty solomon seal species.

Admission: Friends \$8.00 Non-members \$12.00
RSVP by 27 June on enclosed booking form

CHRISTMAS IN JULY
Bus Trip to Lancefield and Dromkeen
Wednesday 16 July

Join us on Wednesday 16 July for a three-course Christmas luncheon (including roast turkey and pork) with all the trimmings at the Grange Restaurant, Glen Erin Grange Winery in Lancefield. This winery is nestled in the foothills of the Macedon Ranges on a property of about five hectares. It offers serene, picturesque scenery similar to the English countryside. The meal will be accompanied by complimentary house wines, beer or soft drinks. We can have free wine tastings, and an opportunity to stroll amongst the gardens of the winery after lunch.

On our way to the Grange Restaurant we will visit Dromkeen, a graceful, rambling homestead in a garden setting, which holds the notable Dromkeen Children's Literature Collection of original artwork and manuscripts from Australian picture books. The Collection was established in 1974 by Joyce and Court Oldmeadow to ensure the preservation of this literary heritage.

Bus will leave from outside the National Gallery at 9.00am **sharp**, returning by 5.00pm.
Cost \$50.00
RSVP by 8 July on enclosed booking form

In an emergency, if you cannot attend, please leave a message at the Friends' Office, tel. 9650 6398, by 7.30am on the day. We are sorry that refunds are not possible on this occasion.

THE CONTEXT OF PLANTS
An illustrated talk by Michael McCoy

Thursday 24 July at 8.00pm
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Michael McCoy, gardening feature writer for the *Saturday Age* and head gardener at 'Hascombe', Mount Macedon, will talk about his ideas on creating a garden focusing within the ecological, aesthetic and cultural context of plants. He will expand on plant groupings, keeping in mind the requirements of various plants within that group. In doing so, he hopes to justify his conclusion that there is no such thing as a bad plant, just a badly placed one.

Come and enjoy an evening with Michael, which surely will reflect his lucid, thought-provoking style of writing and gardening expertise.

Supper will be served.
Admission: Friends \$8.00 Non-members \$12.00

RSVP on enclosed booking form by Monday 21 July

**ANTIQUÉ JEWELLERY WITH A
BOTANICAL THEME**
Illustrated talk by Wendy McRae

Thursday 7 August at 10.15am
Mueller Hall, National Herbarium

Join us for a fascinating morning talk and learn more about the history, origin and stories which surround the heritage of antique jewellery with a botanical theme.

Wendy McRae has appeared on national radio and television, has lectured for the National Trust and the National Gallery, and has conducted classes for Sotheby's Decorative Arts series. She will illustrate the talk with pieces from her private collection.

If you have a sentimental item of antique jewellery with a botanical theme that you want to know more about, or an unusual piece that would be of interest to our group, please bring it along. The talk will focus on romance and history, not gemmology and valuation.

Morning coffee will be served.
Admission: Friends \$8.00 Non-members \$12.00

RSVP by Monday 4 August on enclosed booking form

BOTANICAL ART IN THE RARE BOOKS COLLECTION OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

18 and 19 August

See Botanical Illustrators section

FIFTY YEARS' GARDENING FOR THE RICH AND FAMOUS: The life's work of Russell Page

Illustrated talk by David Wilkinson

Thursday 11 September at 8.00pm
In the McInerney Room, Stonnington,
Toorak Campus, Deakin University
336 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

David Wilkinson, a former Friends' President, is nearing the end of a two-year sojourn in the French countryside. His talk scheduled for September fulfils a promise given before he left Melbourne.

In May 1996 David, an architect with a strong interest in landscape design, and his wife Bibi were invited to join a group of 20 to tour some French and Italian gardens designed by the internationally acclaimed Russell Page. The tour was organised by Page's nephew to mark the tenth anniversary of his death. Starting from the island of Capri, there followed what David describes as 'nine of the most exhilarating days of my life'.

Russell Page is noted for his lifelong work at the gardens at Longleat for the Marquess of Bath, as well as for major commissions in Italy and New York.

Supper will be served.

Cost: Friends \$8.00 Non-members \$12.00

Parking in Somers Avenue, or in Stonnington grounds (entry from Glenferrie Road)

RSVP on booking form by Monday 8 September

Sarah Guest, the after dinner speaker, with John Harper and Eve Brunner at the Conference Dinner



*Keynote Speaker
Professor Carrick Chambers*



SPRING GARDENS WEEKEND IN TASMANIA

14 - 16 November

Come and enjoy a 'Behind the Hedges' tour of eight gardens in Tasmania's mid-north during the height of Spring. The gardens selected are quite diverse, from the grand and historic to the village cottage garden; some specialise in the cultivation of rare plants and trees. All of the gardens surround early colonial buildings (circa 1823-41) which are of great interest. Some are very private places, not open to the public. At each garden we will be guided by the owner.

Leaving Tullamarine at 2.40pm on Friday 14 November we will fly to Launceston with Southern Australian Airlines (Qantas). We will be met by private coach and transported to our four-star heritage-listed accommodation (circa 1826-40) in or near Longford, a charming historic town just 15 minutes from the airport. The tour commences that evening at 6.30pm at the Racecourse Inn (circa 1840) with pre-dinner drinks, followed by a welcome dinner with wine, where you will be able to mingle with other members of our group.

We will be collected from our accommodation after breakfast to visit four gardens each day. Delicious lunches as well as morning/afternoon teas will be provided throughout the weekend in the lovely surroundings of the various properties visited.

On our return trip to the airport late on Sunday afternoon, we will stop at the village of Evandale for a bit of leisurely sightseeing. The return flight departs at 8.00pm and arrives at Tullamarine at 9.05pm.

Why not treat yourself to an early Christmas gift by taking this superb tour?

Cost: \$560 twin share (\$60 single supplement). Includes all air and ground transportation, two nights' accommodation, garden entrance fees, drinks on Friday night and all food including wine with both dinners.

RSVP immediately on the enclosed booking form with \$150 deposit. Balance due by 1 October. This tour is limited to 15 people, so please book early.



Dulcie Chandler from the Benalla Friends, Golda Isaac from the Melbourne Friends and Dr Philip Moors at the Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) in April.



Janet Thomson and Eva Millie admire the posy presented to Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, who opened the Conference.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATORS

BOTANICAL ART IN THE RARE BOOKS COLLECTION OF THE STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

18 and 19 August

We are fortunate to be able to offer a rare opportunity to see this very special collection at close hand, together with a comprehensive seminar conducted by Brian Hubber, the Rare Books Librarian. Each session will be limited to a maximum of 10 people to ensure that each participant receives a good view of the material presented.

Brian Hubber will lead us on an historical excursion through the various styles of botanical illustration, beginning with facsimiles of a Dioscorides herbal from the third century AD and going through to modern times. A considerable amount of time will be spent on the works of the great illustrators of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, including William Curtis, Franz and Ferdinand Bauer, Pierre Joseph Redouté, John Sibthorp and Robert Thornton.

Those wishing to stay after the seminar may take a conducted tour of the Library including the recently opened Trescowthick Information Centre.

Meet at the foyer of the State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne (opposite Melbourne Central Station) 10 minutes prior to beginning of your chosen session time.

Monday 18 August: 10.00am-12noon; 1.00pm-3.00pm
 Tuesday 19 August: 10.00am-12noon; 1.00pm-3.00pm
 Wednesday 20 August: 10.00am-12noon

Cost: \$15 per person *by pre-booked entree card only.*

Please indicate which session you wish to attend (and your second preference) on the enclosed booking form and return with your remittance ASAP to reserve your place. We look forward to seeing members of the Friends, as well as the Illustrators group.

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION CLASSES

Term 3 classes, commencing on 16 July, will be held on Wednesdays from 9.30am-12.30pm, and Fridays from 10.30am-1.30pm.

It is proposed that an evening class will be held in 4th term for those who cannot attend in the daytime. At this stage we are just taking expressions of interest. Please call Dianne Emery on 9523 5397; days and times will be finalised at a later date.

Photographs in this newsletter by Duncan Ironmonger

GROWING FRIENDS IN NEW HOME

The Growing Friends had an excellent Autumn Sale. The plants looked wonderful and many were flowering, the weather was kind and the publicity very effective; this all contributed to the success and takings of \$25,500, our best result for an Autumn Sale and second best ever. It was also great fun!

The Growing Friends have finally moved. Our new nursery is in the grounds of the Royal Botanic Gardens behind Nursery Lodge, which is inside the Works area - for directions see map below. Please note that parking is not available in the Works area, but there are some free two-hour places nearby in Birdwood Avenue. If you can find us on Friday mornings between 10am and 1pm we would love to see you. There are lots of bargains.

The Gardens staff made us all feel very welcome with a wonderful feast at morning tea of sandwiches, asparagus rolls, buns, cakes - all made by their own hands.

Sharon Beaman
Convener



The entrance to the new Growing Friends Nursery is between F Gate and E Gate

FRIENDS AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

- Talk on RBG Cranbourne - 19 March
- Growing Friends Plant Sale - 22 and 23 March
- Film Luncheon - *Jerry Maguire* - 24 March
- Visit to Chateau Tahbilk - 6 April
- Conference of Assn of Friends - 19 and 20 April
- Victorian Governors' Wives - 6 May
- Review of Botanical Illustrators exhibition - 19 May
- Porgy and Bess* - 16 and 24 May
- Botanical Embroiderers workshops
- Botanical Illustration classes

BOTANICAL EMBROIDERERS' WORKSHOP

Term 2 for this group commences on Monday 16 June, then on 14 July, 11 August and 8 September. Wanda McPherson from the Embroiderers' Guild of Victoria will continue classes at the Astronomer's Residence between 1.00 and 3.00pm. New members are welcome. Bring basic sewing kit.
Cost for four sessions: \$40.

FRIENDS' SHOP

Dear Friends

Thank you all so much for your support; we have had THE busiest summer. The Gardens have been packed with people enjoying the wonderful weather, and endless streams of people have been in and out of the Friends' Shop.

We have several new and interesting cook books in stock:

<i>Bathers Pavilion</i> by Victoria Alexander and Genevieve Harris	\$39.95
<i>A Taste of Australia</i> by Joy Ross	\$16.95
<i>Yum</i> by Terry Durack	\$39.95
<i>The River Cafe Cook Book</i> by Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers	\$49.95

In stock again: Friends' winter T-shirts with long sleeves (cream or black \$27.00) and fleecy polo tops (moss green \$42.00) all with the Friends' embroidered logo.

Interesting inexpensive items:

Grapefruit and lime blossom extract soap	.90cea
Yoghurt and goats milk soap	.90c ea
Hand painted silk bookmark	\$4.00
Hand turned banksia pots	\$10.00

If you're going overseas we have a lot of Australian-made gifts; we look forward to seeing you down here.

Keep warm,
Jill Swann

PLEASE NOTE: The Friends' shop will be closed for stocktaking and renovations for one week from Monday 30 June to Monday 7 July.



CATERING GROUP

Our charming and friendly group of caterers would welcome some others to join their ranks.

We provide the refreshments served at Friends' functions; the more people in the group, the more we can spread the work. Cost of ingredients is reimbursed.

Please contact Janet James on 9898 1332.

Members are reminded that we request a stamped self-addressed envelope to be sent with your booking if you wish your entree tickets to be posted by return mail.
Otherwise your name will be recorded on a list available at each function to verify your payment.



For a Friends' outing on 6 April a party of 50 visited Chateau Tahbilk and there viewed the wonderful old vines, trees and cellars. This was followed by lunch at the Mitchelton Winery and a delightfully sunny cruise on the Goulburn River.

SPECIAL BENEFITS TO FRIENDS

The Friends' Shop adjoining the Gardens' Tea Rooms and the Gardens' Shop in the Herbarium both offer a 10 per cent discount on purchases exceeding \$20.

The following businesses kindly offer special discounts to Friends.

Current membership cards must be shown in order for you to receive these discounts.

Fryers' Nursery

589 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn
5% off plants only

Idaho Nurseries

410 Waverley Rd, E. Malvern
10% off plants only

The Gardener's Bulleen Nursery

105 Bridge St, Bulleen
5% off seedlings

10% off potted plants

Town and Country Gardens

1280 Malvern Rd, Malvern
10% off everything

The Arts Bookshop

1067 High St, Armadale

Holmesglen College of TAFE

inc. the Victorian Schools Nursery
585 Waverley Rd, Glen Waverley

10% off everything

The Gardeners Corner Store

190-192 New St, Brighton

10% off everything

Collectors Corner

Springvale Rd, Keysborough

10% off all plants

Kew Nursery

Cnr High & Gladstone Sts, Kew

10% off all plants

Wolf Tools

675 Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills

10% discount

Burwood Garden Patch

1418 Toorak Rd, Burwood

10% discount

Green Gables Nursery

1039 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill

(opposite Town Hall) 10% discount

on all items except specials. Does

not apply to Frequent Buyer

cardholders

Garden of Eden Nursery

33 Ferrars Street, Albert Park

10% discount off everything

*** The Cottage Garden Nursery**

cnr Macedon Ave & Doncaster Rd

North Balwyn

\$20 per tray (8 punnets) of

seedlings, 5% off all plants

* Denotes newcomer to list

TRAVELS

There's still time to book for our Friends' tour to COSTA RICA, between 1 and 18 August. This is a conservationist's paradise, with a temperate climate and a stable political situation. Cost \$7280. Call the Friends' office (9650 6398) for a brochure, or obtain further details from Destination Management, tel. (07) 3359 6651, fax (07) 3359 1263.

* A leaflet enclosed with this *Botanic News* sets out the itinerary for our autumn tour of the SOUTH ISLAND of NEW ZEALAND commencing on 26 March 1998. Book early to ensure your place.

* Friends are also invited to join the Ornamental Plant Collections Association on a trip to LORD HOWE ISLAND from 6-13 September 1997. Gwen and Rodger Elliot will lead the group around this wonderful island, which has world heritage classification. Contact OPCA in the Astronomer's Residence for details, tel. 9650 5639.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership continues to grow but the numbers are, to some extent, offset by those who do not renew. Please note that if your membership was due for renewal in the months before February of this year and you have not renewed, then you will not receive the new *Botanic Magazine* which will shortly be published. This is a bumper edition with 76 pages of interesting articles and illustrations.

Renewals

Please check inside your *Botanic News* envelope for a renewal notice. If you believe a renewal notice has been sent in error please contact the office.

Mailing Lists

Botanic News is usually mailed in the first week of June, September, December and March. It is well known that computerised mailing lists can malfunction. Therefore, we would appreciate a call if you do not receive your copy.



Botanic News is produced quarterly for the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Incorporated has been formed to stimulate further interest in the Gardens and National Herbarium and to support and assist them whenever possible.

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FROM THE GARDENS AND HERBARIUM

Friends will be aware of the recent extensive publicity given to the finding of symptoms of the disease Fire Blight in plants at the Royal Botanic Gardens. This disease particularly affects pear and apple trees and has the potential to cause serious damage to orchards. It also infects ornamental plants in the family Rosaceae (eg cotoneaster, hawthorn, medlar, *Pyrus*, etc - but not roses themselves). Fortunately it poses no threat to humans or animals and does not affect fruit for eating.

A New Zealand horticultural scientist reported Fire Blight in plant samples which he removed from RBG Melbourne in April. Since then the Gardens and surrounding parklands have been surveyed for signs of the disease and an extensive series of diagnostic tests carried out. So far (21 May), evidence for the presence of Fire Blight has been found only in two cotoneasters at the Gardens. These plants were removed on 19 May and taken under strict quarantine conditions to a high-security laboratory where further tests will be undertaken.

Plants susceptible to the disease will continue to be monitored in collaboration with plant experts from the Institute for Horticultural Development. Quarantine controls are in place at the Gardens and surrounding areas, preventing movement of plants in the susceptible group of species. These controls have no impact on access by visitors, or on their enjoyment of the Gardens.

Removal of the two affected cotoneasters, and any subsequent removal of other susceptible plants, will have little effect on the Gardens or its collections. Plants of susceptible species comprise less than one per cent of the total plants in the Gardens, and none of them is an important species in the landscape or tree canopy.

The RBG has been co-operating closely with plant and quarantine authorities to do everything we can to isolate any outbreak and prevent damage to the apple and pear industry. At this stage there is no evidence as to how the disease may have come in to the Gardens. The rigorous quarantine procedures followed by the RBG for many years ensures that introduction of new plants is not a potential cause.

If you have questions about Fire Blight, please telephone the Fire Blight Hotline on 1800 646 961. Any plants showing suspected symptoms of the disease should not be pruned or disturbed - phone the Hotline for information and advice.

Several weeks ago, the Growing Friends "took up their plants and walked" to their new nursery beside the Works Yard in the RBG. I am pleased to welcome the Growing Friends to their new facilities, which will further strengthen their excellent links with our horticultural staff. We celebrated the move with a morning tea at the site on 18 April, attended by the Growing Friends and RBG staff who had assisted with development of the facilities and moving the plant stock. Several Gardens' staff demonstrated their versatile skills as cake-bakers!

Several new positions have recently been created at RBG Cranbourne. We have advertised the positions of Assistant Director (Cranbourne Gardens) and Director of the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology. Karyn Scott has been appointed Visitor Programs Officer, and Kathy Overton as Education Officer. Dr Terry Coates commenced in April as the Ecologist there. Meanwhile, at South Yarra, we have farewelled Dr Andrew Douglas, who has completed his Pacific Dunlop Fellowship and is returning to an appointment at the Field Museum in Chicago. We also farewelled Sandra Day in April after almost ten years on the Herbarium's staff.

Philip Moors
Director