

The Gardens

Magazine of the Friends of The Gardens

Sydney • Domain • Mount Annan • Mount Tomah • National Herbarium
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The Gardens
provide safe haven
for special trees



RRP \$5.95

- The Woolly Gates get a makeover • Friends continue funding program
- Botanical art master classes • Friends release updated cookbook



PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

Join us to discuss our future plans

Here we are, fast approaching the end of my first year as the President of the Friends. Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 November in the Maiden Theatre and the Committee of the Friends is hoping for a full house of members to hear about and discuss our achievements over the past year and our plans for the future.

In the meantime, here are a few of our achievements and indications of the challenges we are facing: In August, the Committee of the Friends decided on the new projects to be funded for the year 2009-2010 which, together with ongoing commitments, total \$387,800. There is detail of some of the exciting new projects we have agreed to fund on page 9 but the disappointment for the Committee was that the funds we had available this year were less than the record of the previous year and there were a number of worthy projects proposed by the Gardens' management in each of the estates that we were unable to support.

No doubt it is a sign of the financial and economic times, but the huge efforts of our army of volunteers who conduct events for the benefit of members as well as raise money to support the Gardens were sadly less financially rewarding than in the previous two years. Nevertheless, it is a very satisfying achievement that through membership subscriptions and fundraising activities, the Friends continues to make a significant surplus which is available to support Botanic Gardens projects and, at the same time, ensure that we are able to guarantee the donations we receive are passed on to the Gardens.

In addition to addressing the challenge of restoring the success of our regular fundraising activities, the Committee of the Friends has also been considering how the Friends can work with the Botanic Gardens Trust and the Botanic Gardens Foundation on the major fundraising that will be needed to support the Botanic Bicentenary in 2016.

I am looking forward to reporting to the Annual General Meeting on our plans, including the bicentennial projects that the Friends are already supporting.

Raoul de Ferranti



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Awaiting approval to relocate Flying-foxes

Last issue I explained why we had to delay our relocation of the Grey-headed Flying-foxes. We've now submitted our 'Public Environment Report' to the Commonwealth Government and it's posted on their website – the final version will take into account any public feedback. If approval is granted, we intend to start in May 2010.

The decision to delay the relocation was disappointing, to say the least, but necessary. We have been clear about the need to disturb the camp only when it is safe for the flying-foxes and we must have approval from the relevant authorities.

Our window of opportunity is May to July, after breeding and before the animals are preparing to carry their young. Although we expect the camp to relocate within two weeks of starting the noise disturbance, and to join an existing camp such as the one in Gordon, we need to allow extra time in case they settle in an unsuitable area.

The good news is that decent rainfall and excellent tree care have meant that some of the most severely damaged trees have survived another year. The prognosis is best described as critical but in a relatively stable condition. We have lost nine trees since 2005, including four of 'high' and 'exceptional' value, but a couple earmarked for removal a year ago are still alive. (Of course many more palms and under-storey plants have died.)

While relocation in 2009 would have given us the best opportunity to save the remaining trees, I'm hopeful we can hold onto some of the most important trees for another year. Once the flying-foxes are relocated, lots of care and attention will be needed to bring the most affected trees back to full health and to reinvigorate the whole landscape. With support from the Friends we have already started collecting new rainforest trees from northern New South Wales.

While frustrating, the extra year does give the Trust more time for research and monitoring of camps around Sydney. We'll continue to reinforce the importance of this botanical landscape, the success of the relocation from Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne six years ago, and the experience gained from our noise disturbance programs here in the 1990s.

Tim Entwisle

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Hyacinth Orchid: Celebration of season on December 1. See Close Up on page 5.

Replanting the Woolly Gates

It's a shame the main entrance to Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens is so tucked away.

A first-time visitor driving down Art Gallery Road, distracted by the surrounding beauty of the Domain and Woolloomooloo Bay, could miss it completely. Even the handsome wrought iron gates are partially hidden by trees.

It's not what the early designers were thinking.

To put yourself in their shoes you must stand in the middle of the Domain, facing the harbour. In front of you is an avenue leading north, straight into the Gardens. Well-dressed gentlemen, their womenfolk on their arms, stroll towards the gleaming wrought iron gates that have just been erected, replacing some rather meaner, earlier wooden gates. This main entrance faces south and leads visitors directly into the heart of the Upper Gardens.

At right angles, running along the length of the southern edge of the Gardens, is Fig Tree Avenue, lined by figs that will grow to impressive height and bulk and provide welcome shade in Sydney's summer heat.

A large terracotta and stone drinking fountain, erected in 1866 in Fig Tree Avenue, is just outside the main garden entrance. It's all pretty grand, really.

You may have seen this if you grew up in Sydney in the first half of the last century, for it was all there until the building of the Cahill Expressway in the 1960s.

The expressway now runs where Fig Tree Avenue did. Indeed, until only a few years ago, a few lonely fig trees stood forlornly in a traffic island in the expressway, but recently even they gave up the struggle and had to be removed.

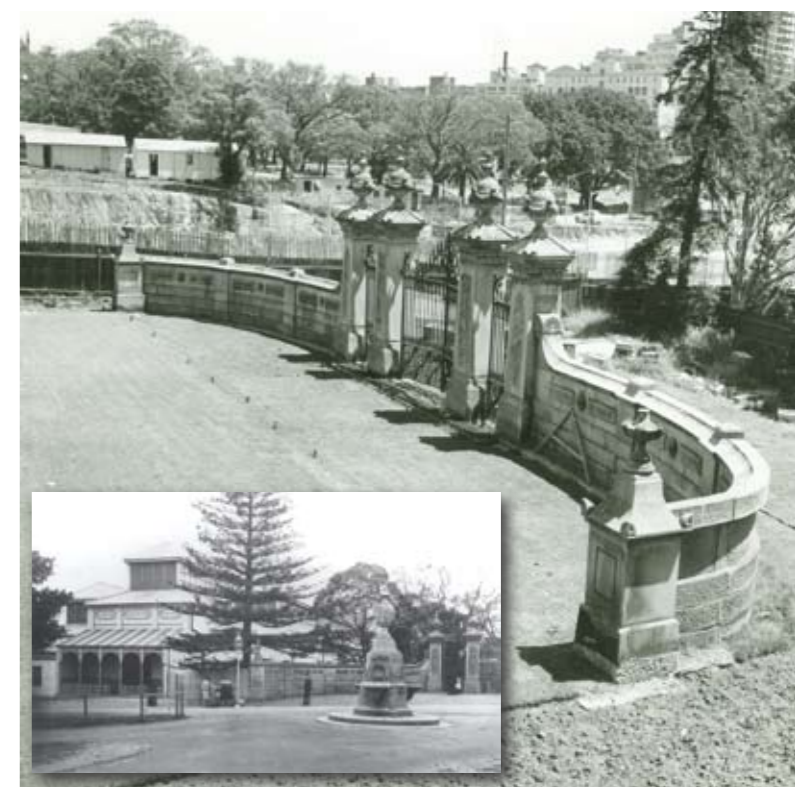


The Woolloomooloo gates today

With the building of the expressway, the main entrance was swung round by 90 degrees so it now faces east. The terracotta and stone drinking fountain was destroyed.

This entrance, now known as the Woolloomooloo Gates (or the Woolly Gates, as they are affectionately referred to by Gardens staff) is still a magnificent structure – but perhaps it could be a little more welcoming.

With that in mind, the Friends of The Gardens has



Wooden gates were replaced by the magnificent Woolloomooloo Gates in 1872. Inset: drinking fountain with Fine Arts Gallery

allocated \$15,000 for the replanting of this area. The general thought is fewer of the stiff spiky plants, more of the eye-catching, "come-into-the-gardens" type.

Fran Jackson, Manager, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, is still working on the final design. "Welcoming", "sub-tropical", "low-maintenance", "robust" are the words she's using for the evolving plans. Fran wants to reflect what is displayed in the Upper Gardens and visually connect the Gate to this precinct.

Foremost for the planners is how this entrance connects to other parts of the Gardens and this part of the Domain. Fran and the Upper Gardens team, led by Supervisor Troy Mason and Senior Horticulturist Paul Nicholson, are conscious of the need to make this entrance reflect the distinctive characteristics of this precinct, while ensuring that the landscaping remains in keeping with the heritage nature of the Gates.

If you can tell a book by its cover, perhaps the same is true of a Gardens' gate?

The work will start next March and should be completed by the beginning of winter.

In the meantime, have you really looked at the Woolly Gates? They were designed by Colonial Architect James Barnet, made in Robert Dunlop's workshop in Forbes Street, and erected in 1872-73. According to author David Robert Churches (in *The Cultural Significance of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney*), the gates were originally painted mauve with the monogram in gold. He says they are one of the most significant of the Victorian embellishments to the RBG.

Sue Wannan



GROWING FRIENDS with Carol Griesser

Create a work of art with grasses



Softening a fence line

It must be obvious by now that our planet is warming up. The reasons are thought to be many: holes in the ozone layer, destruction of forests, cyclic climatic changes, all or none of the above. The best scientists are still arguing about the causes. All we know is that the seasons are not what they used to be. This year we had the warmest winter in history and the same has been said in recent times about one month or another.

Australia is one of the driest continents on earth, and our limited supply of water should be carefully rationed and wherever possible recycled.

We need to adapt to climatic changes and so do our gardens or, better still, our concept of gardening.

Walking through virgin bush and understanding its poetic beauty, we can learn a lot about creating our own patch of Australiana. It does not need to be monochromatic. Our country has many colorful plants and foliage and with some judicious soil and mini-climatic changes, we can grow plants endemic to the tropics or to the Snowy Mountains.

Lately Australian ornamental grasses and grass-like plants have been adopted by landscapers to create beautiful frames, backgrounds and eclectic designs to complement and sometimes wholly create a naturally looking garden.

Grasses are durable, low maintenance plants. Once established, they can survive without water or fertiliser although they

look much better with a bit of watering in the growing season. If you choose to prune them at the end of winter, all that is needed is a hedge trimmer or a high set lawn mower (depending on height). I prefer the long seed heads dancing in the wind, singing their unique whispering song. There is nothing more beautiful than a wide swathe of blue grasses undulating like the waves of an ocean.

Gahnia sieberiana is an elegant, tall sedge (family Cyperaceae) with long, arching leaves and long stems topped with plume-like black flower heads and red-brown fruits. It is suitable in dry and wet areas alike. Flower spikes can reach up to 3 metres.

Poa labillardieri (family Poaceae) was one of the grasses used to landscape the Homebush Olympic site. The leaves are very fine and grey-green, growing to about a metre tall with fluffy green flowers turning straw colour with age.

Cymbopogon ambiguus (family Poaceae), known as Scent Grass or Lemon Grass (not the same as edible Lemon Grass), is very adaptable to different types of soil. It is drought and frost hardy but it needs full sun. The foliage has a strong lemon scent as the name suggests. It will grow to 90cm tall.

Ficinia nodosa (previously *Isolepis nodosa*; family Cyperaceae), known as Knobby Rush, is a widespread sedge native to the warm, coastal areas of Australia and the Southern Hemisphere. It forms very attractive, stout clumps to 50cm height topped by hemispherical seed heads. It tolerates salt sprays and waterlogged situations.

The Connections Garden at Mount Annan Botanic Garden has many examples of their beauty and diversity.

The above four species are available for purchase from the Growing Friends' nursery in the Royal Botanic Gardens.



John Tamm

Knobby Rush has sculptural appeal.

Growing Friends' Sydney nursery plant sales dates for summer

The Growing Friends' nursery is open throughout summer however it will close briefly over the Christmas season from close of business on Friday 18 December 2009, reopening on 4 January 2010.

The nursery is open Monday – Friday 11.30 am – 2 pm;

Saturday 12 December 2009 and 13 February 2010, from 9 am to 1 pm.

The Growing Friends' nursery will not be open any Saturday during January 2010

Beautiful trees for sale

This summer the Growing Friends' nursery has a number of beautiful trees propagated from the Botanic Gardens for sale at fantastic prices.

Tabernaemontana cerifera. A highly desirable small tree with beautifully perfumed and abundant white starry flowers. A slow grower to 4 m or so.

Barringtonia neo-caledonica. A small ornamental native from New Caledonia, growing in the tropic north but it adapts well to warm climates farther south. This beautiful garden specimen grows to a height of 10 m and sporadically produces fluffy flowers in long racemes followed by woody fruits.

Don't forget to bring a bag or box and your membership card to get your discount.



Tabernaemontana cerifera: perfumed beauty



Barringtonia neo-caledonica: Ornamental Style



CLOSE UP

New reasons to celebrate a shift in seasons

You've just been enjoying the season of 'presummer' (or perhaps 'sprummer' or 'cantankerous weather time') – that's October and November, between the new, early spring ('sprinter' or 'flowering spring') of August and September. Ahead of you is the long hot summer from December to March, an autumn (of sorts, in coastal Sydney) in April and May, and nice short winter in June and July.

How does it feel? At least you are starting to think about the changes in climate and biology, not just celebrating an odd seasonal system imported from Europe. Why should there be four seasons, each three months long, and why should they be the same all around the world?

The Old World Vivaldi seasons don't make sense across a vast continent like Australia, and they don't make sense in Sydney or New South Wales.

Many people before me have suggested a new set of seasons. Our Indigenous communities have watched the world around them over tens of thousands of years, and have come up with seasons to suit their local area. South of Sydney, the D'harawal have six seasons, linked to the availability of food (plant and animal) and even moods induced by weather changes.

There are problems, of course, in tailoring seasons for local regions. Daylight saving and rugby cause enough interstate debate already. Every year will be slightly different, and the seasons will drift with global warming. Could we agree on a set of seasons, even for a small region like coastal Sydney?

I've already mentioned the D'harawal have six. I've suggested five, after consultation with a few weather and environment watchers around Sydney, including ex-teacher and enthusiastic climate watcher, Rick Kemp, of Baulkham Hills.

Kevin McDonald, co-ordinator of a program called Nature Watch, and Ken Shafer, a retired school principal and active participant in Allan Reid's Timelines Project in the 1990s, prefer six seasons. One iteration of this system has each season of two months, and splits the wattle flowering in July/August from the peak spring flowering in September/October.

All of these options were championed a few months ago by Newcastle Herald columnist Jeff Corbett, who has railed for some time against our passive acceptance of the British seasons.

Every August I fend off questions about whether spring has come early and whether this is a harbinger of global warming.

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David Madsen & Caroline Piekartz

Wattle: Celebration of new season on August 1.

Both may be true but the 'flowering spring' around coastal Sydney starts in late July and early August. Cold or warm, the wattles bloom – not all of them of course, but there is a definite flush around Sydney and, in fact, around much of the country in August. My colleagues in botanic gardens around the country don't all agree with my push to refresh our seasons but most observe the August wattle blooming.

If we are too conservative to change seasons, let's at least celebrate these shifts in climate and the natural world with festive days such as Wattle Day. To start, we could move Wattle Day back to 1 August, where it sat for a few decades between the two World Wars in the 20th century.

I know the history of Wattle Day and that it was proclaimed nationally in 1992, but why have it clinging to the start of the European spring (assuming we use 1 and not 21 September, but that's a whole other discussion)? We could then have Telopea Day on October 1, Hyacinth Orchid Day on December 1, Banksia Day on April 1, and maybe Grevillea or Camellia Day June 1.

I think it's a discussion we need to have. Before we can detect and talk about changes in our gardens or the bush due to climate change, we should sort out our seasons or at least the recognition we give to regular climatic and biological cycles.

It would help to have good scientific data, and to build on some of the community monitoring programs of the past. PlantWatch, which I championed last year (*The Gardens*, Autumn 2008), has morphed into ClimateWatch, a partnership with EarthWatch. If you want to take part in this community monitoring program (of animals and plants) register at www.climatewatch.org.au or contact Ifeanna Tooth, our ClimateWatch Coordinator at the Botanic Gardens Trust.

In the meantime, we've started planning for a spring festival in 2010, to be held in August.

Tim Entwisle



Nelson-Blue

Grevillea 'Ned Kelly': Celebration of new season on June 1.

For further musings on seasons and other plant-related matters, see: talkingplants.blogspot.com

A safe haven for endangered

It's always tempting when writing an article about the trees in the Royal Botanic Gardens to mention the biggest, the oldest, the rarest and the just plain weird trees. I'll get the weird one out of the way first – my favourite is the *Agathis robusta*, planted in 1916 as part of a group of trees commemorating the allies of World War I, and marking the 100th birthday of the Gardens.

The *Agathis robusta*, although being native to Queensland, was dedicated to New Zealand. Luckily New Zealand is well represented with trees in the Gardens that actually are from New Zealand, notably (and confusingly) *Agathis australis* and Podocarpaceae conifers.

Colonial Botanist Charles Fraser, who was Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, introduced the first New Zealand species to the Gardens, including the aforementioned *Agathis australis* and Podocarpaceae species, and worked closely with Alan Cunningham, the King's Botanist to the



Simone Cottrell

Majestic branches and foliage are characteristic of the White fig.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, who botanised widely in New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand and Norfolk Island.

Cunningham's botanising yielded prizes such as *Agathis*, *Araucaria*, *Cryptocarya*, *Flindersia*, *Toona* and *Waterhousia*. These trees were planted in the Middle Gardens, and provided the framework for the later Palm Grove. They are now the oldest trees in the Gardens, and are of exceptional heritage significance.

The first trees at the Gardens were the trees indigenous to Sydney; very few of these special trees now remain. The two forest red gums, *Eucalyptus teriticornis*, standing at the top of the Tarpeian cliff face on Bennelong Lawn, are thought to be lignotubers of the original trees.

Several swamp oaks, *Casuarina glauca*, suckers from the original trees marking the old Farm Cove shoreline, stand near the Maiden Pavilion. Along the rocky outcrops near Victoria Lodge several Port Jackson figs, *Ficus rubiginosa*, remind us what the shoreline might have looked like 220 years ago.

In 1816, local potato grower Jack Wright planted an avenue of swamp mahogany, *Eucalyptus robusta*, along the newly completed carriage drive around the Governor's Domain. The road became known as Mrs Macquaries Road; three of the swamp mahoganies planted by Jack Wright can still be seen next to the Macquarie Wall in Lower Gardens.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, being the second oldest botanic gardens in the southern hemisphere, has had quite a few Royal visitors over the years. Royal visits always

provide an excuse for a ceremonial tree planting. The first 'Royal' tree to be planted at the Gardens is the aptly named *Chrysophyllum imperiale* growing near the Maiden Theatre. This was planted by Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, in 1868 on the occasion of his rather eventful visit to Sydney. The tree is thought to be extinct in the wild, where its natural habitat is now the sprawling city of Rio de Janeiro, ironically home to the southern hemisphere's first botanic garden.

Our *Chrysophyllum* is making a valuable contribution to the conservation of this species, as it sets viable seed most years, some of which are occasionally sent back to Brazil as part of the recovery program for this tree.

For the statistically inclined, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Government House have approximately 2090 trees with 830 unique species of trees, plus 70 unique species of palm tree which are over 5 metres tall. *Ficus*, *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia* and *Araucaria* species account for about 14 per cent of the tree species found in the Gardens. The prize for the most number of an individual non-palm tree goes to the indigenous Port Jackson fig, *Ficus rubiginosa*, with 20 specimens in the Gardens.

Some of the most spectacular trees can be found in the Middle Gardens, the oldest cultivated section of the Gardens. For my money, the most beautiful tree in the Gardens is the flooded gum, *Eucalyptus grandis* in the Solander Garden near the Maiden Theatre.

The *Quercus ilex* in the Palace Garden, with its huge and



Simone Cottrell

The flooded gum, *Eucalyptus grandis*, is a feature of the Solander Garden.



Jaime Plaza



Simone Cottrell

Acrylic guards protect trees from marauding possums.

and special trees

beautifully pockmarked trunk, comes a close second in the beauty stakes.

Maintaining the trees in a manner in keeping with a botanic garden of international repute can be challenging. Environmental factors are particularly testing of horticultural expertise. Drought and water restrictions, coupled with intense pressure from possums and flying foxes, have seen many of our notable trees decline or die over the past 10 years.

Perhaps the most significant tree loss has been the *Agathis moorei* which towered above the Palm Grove. Charles Moore collected this tree in 1850 from New Caledonia, the Horticultural Society in London naming the tree after him on receipt of Moore's dried specimen. Moore planted the tree near the *Agathis robusta* that John Carne Bidwell had collected from Maryborough in 1849. The dead trunk of Charles Moore's *Agathis moorei* was finally removed from the Palm Grove in 2007. The tree is now endangered in the wild.

Regular monitoring of all the trees ensures that preventative maintenance work is programmed to suit the trees, events, and the safety of the public. Tree condition is logged on a Geographic Information System database, and updated frequently. Where possible, trees are protected from fauna – primarily flying-foxes and possums – however it is not possible to protect the majority of trees from damage caused by flying-foxes, as the Gardens is only licensed to carry out minimal disturbance to these animals in a small number of trees.

Localised disturbance of the flying-

The stately foliage of *Chrysophyllum imperiale*, planted by Prince Alfred in 1868.



Simone Cottrell

In all their mighty grandeur, Indigenous figs dominate the Gardens.

foxes can increase damage from more frequent take-off and landing of the creatures, and is therefore only used on particular trees at particular times of the year.

The use of Perspex possum guard on tree trunks has proved successful at keeping possums out of trees that do not have intersecting canopies. A Tree Masterplan for the Gardens is due to be completed; this will ensure the long term viability of the existing tree collection, and an appropriate replacement program for this world class collection.

Frances Jackson
Manager, Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney
David Bidwell, Senior Arborist

Zooming in on our tree collections

With the recent launch of the new 'Trees in the Gardens' website and the upgrade to computer hardware underpinning our collections management system, visitors to the site, and the Gardens, now have a much faster web-based access to information on our tree collections.

The website provides a range of ways of accessing information about our tree collections; the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain 'Quick Search' and 'Advanced Search' pages allow for text-based queries by plant name, bed location, flower colour and flowering month.

A map-based query interface allows the user to zoom and pan across an aerial photo (taken in January 2009) of the Gardens

and Domain and select an area or even an individual tree.

A web page of tips and explanations is available to help users with map queries.

Display data includes images of the actual tree as well as interpretative information. Additional diagnostic images and interpretative data will be added over time.

The website has been funded by a grant from the Friends of The Gardens, and Friends volunteers have contributed significantly to this project.

Chris Ward
Living Collections Administrator
Botanic Gardens Trust

There will be a Quick Link to the site on the Gardens home page – <http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au>



GARDEN FOCUS with Margaret Hanks

Flower spikes of fire red put on a dramatic show

Odontonema callistachyum
Fire-spike, crimson justicia
Family Acanthaceae

Formerly included in *Justicia* or *Jacobinia*, this is an easy-care, adaptable shrub for frost-free gardens.

It is one of the many members of the *Acanthaceae* family found in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Other

familiar plants in this family are the blue-flowered *Eranthemum*, the pink or white forms of *Justicia carnea*, the ruellias and the sturdy, reliable hedge or screen plant *Mackaya bella*.

These plants were widely planted from early in the 20th century through to the 1960s and are still



Ruth Foster

A showy display of brilliant red spikes is characteristic of *Odontonema callistachyum*.

often seen in suburban gardens of older homes.

These shrubs grow from about 1.5 m to 2.5 m in cultivation but are taller in their Central American habitat. Width varies from less than 1 m to 2 m or more. The mid-green leaves are strongly veined and the striking scarlet flower spikes stand well clear of the foliage. Even in a somewhat shady location, the flowers are prominent against the satiny texture of the leaves.

Its specific name *callistachyum* is so apt, meaning 'with beautiful spikes'. The main flowering is usually during summer and sometimes into autumn although in the tropics it tends to bloom almost year round. It benefits from a light pruning after flowering to keep a compact form.

This plant can be grown in any moderately well-drained soil but it will thrive if the soil has a high organic content. It looks its best when grown in light shade or dappled sunlight with shelter from strong winds. Regular watering is needed to establish then, if plants are well mulched, they will survive, in shelter, with the occasional heavy soaking.

Growing Friends Nursery has tube stock of this plant for sale.

Location

There are several of these plants grouped together in the shade on the western (restaurant) end of Bed 41a. Beds 41 a,b,c are the tropical beds immediately to the north of the Macquarie Wall.

BOTANICA 2010

Treasuring plants: treasuring our planet

The inspiration for the Friends' art exhibition, *Botanica*, has been drawn from the Botanic Gardens Trust's Strategic Plan as it prepares for the Botanic Bicentenary in 2016.

The theme for the 2010 exhibition, *Treasuring Plants – Treasuring our Planet*, recognises the need to preserve our heritage, and botanical art is one way of doing this. Many rare and endangered species would not be generally known if they had not been recorded in botanical paintings over the centuries.

In 2016, the beautiful Sydney Gardens at Farm Cove will be 200 years old and, as one walks

through the grounds, one sees many wonderful specimens, ancient and modern, that inspire botanical artists.

More than 60 respected botanical artists have been invited to submit their work for this major exhibition which is being held in the Royal Botanic Gardens, at Lion Gate Lodge, 16 to 25 April, 2010.

The *Botanica* and *Margaret Flockton* exhibitions show the best of botanical paintings and scientific illustrations.

The Botanica exhibition is open 10am to 4pm daily. Entry is free.



Meconopsis horridula (blue poppy)
by Trisha Oktober

Botanica Opening Night

Be part of Opening Night to celebrate this marvellous botanical art exhibition. Join the artists for fine food and wine, and the opportunity to buy collectable works before the exhibition opens to the general public.

Book early on the enclosed booking form.

Entry by ticket only. No tickets will be sold on the night. \$45, Friends \$35.

Botanica Curatorial Tours

Do you want to know more about the intricacies of botanical art and how the artist goes about producing such an objective mirror of nature? Why not book a curatorial tour for your friends or social group. Tours will be run daily, morning and afternoon.

For more information call the Friends' Office 9231 8182. Cost \$10 per head, minimum group 10.

The Friends continue critical funding program

Pencils ready?

Take out your shopping list and tick off the following... Significant tree mapping study (✓), substantial garden plantings (✓), DNA sequencing software, special-purpose computer and staff scholarships (✓, ✓, ✓), botanical illustration awards and exhibition (✓), plant diversity program (✓), new Gardens signage and sparkling new barbecues (✓, note to self: buy sausages).

As a Friends' member, you've been busy and these are just some of the projects your support will afford the Botanic Gardens, such is the diversity of initiatives the Friends of The Gardens has committed to fund in 2009/2010.

It really is a case of Christmas in July when, at the end of the financial year, the BGT is invited to submit a list of projects to be considered for funding by the Friends of The Gardens. And it's testament to the amazing range of work undertaken by the BGT that the list is so varied and far-reaching.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and the monies raised through our many activities, events and fund-raising initiatives, the Friends donated more than \$387,000 to the BGT for projects in the next financial year. Many worthwhile projects were put forward by the BGT and, after due consideration, the Friends' Committee and Friends' Trust Committee agreed to the following key projects.

The *Bicentenary Plant Diversity Program*, an ambitious plant collecting program that will benefit our scientists, herbarium and living collections, will receive \$125,000. The Friends of The Gardens has committed to fully fund this project, part of the Botanic Bicentenary, over four years.

In supporting the all-important science programs at the BGT, our funding will purchase *Sequencher 4.9* DNA



Jaime Plaza

A significant tree mapping program at Mount Annan Botanic Garden is just one of the programs to be funded by Friends of The Gardens in 2010.

sequence assembly software which allows scientists to edit and assemble DNA sequencing data. In addition, the vital BGT *staff scholarships* will continue to provide the cornerstone of learning opportunities at a cost of \$30,000.

At the Mount Annan Botanic Garden, funding of a *significant tree mapping program* (including the purchase of a special computer for data logging) will allow effective tree management and support; new signage hardware for walking trails, nursery costs and replacement barbecue units will vastly improve the visitor experience.

A generous donation by Friends' life members Dorothy and Alex Robertson will also ensure work on the *Connections Garden*, a vital part of the Mount Annan Botanic Garden, will continue.

At Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, important *directional signage* will be updated while in the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney long-overdue improvements to the *plantings* at the *Woolloomooloo Gates* will be undertaken (see story page 3).

The *Margaret Flockton Award and Exhibition* will continue to be funded in 2010 thanks to the very generous support of the Maple-Brown family.

If you'd like to help the Friends fund special projects or support our Botanic Bicentenary in 2016, simply call us on 02 9231 8182 or make your donation on the membership form in this issue of *The Gardens* magazine. Your donation is fully tax deductible and your generosity makes a big difference to our Gardens' future.

Janine Smith
Development & Fundraising Officer



Jaime Plaza

New DNA sequence assembly software will allow the BGT scientists to edit and assemble DNA sequencing data.

FRIENDS' TOURS IN 2010

Overseas and Local

Tick the box on the Booking Form, call the Friends' office on 9231 8182 or email Friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au for more information. For exact prices and a detailed itinerary, please contact the Friends' office.

10 – 26 May 2010

Treasures of Southern Italy - Sicily & Puglia

Enjoy 16 glorious days that will treat the senses. Start in Sicily, a world in itself that has been shaped by a dozen civilisations, and then travel on to Puglia, Italy's elegant 'stiletto heel', a hidden region almost unknown to tourists. In Sicily stay at Catania, ancient Agrigento and Syracuse, the capital city of Palermo and spectacular Taormina. Visit sumptuous villas and palazzos, Greek and Roman ruins, the Valley of the Temples with its Kolymbetra Garden, a diversity of enchanting gardens both public and private, UNESCO world heritage listed towns and tour by four-wheel drive up the slopes of majestic Mt Etna.

The region of Puglia sits on a fertile plain punctuated by scores of silvery olive trees, rows of verdant vineyards and unique, whitewashed, beehive-shaped trulli houses. Stay in the small town of Martina Franca dating from the 10th century, Altamura with its magnificent cathedral, baroque Lecce and a secret garden, the walled town of Ostuni, Locorotondo with its circular historical centre, Alborobello with its collection of trulli houses, Matera and the Sassi tracing from pre-historic times and location of Mel Gibson's *The Passion*.

Join us to discover Italy's southernmost landscapes, stunning scenery and historic treasures.

SPECIAL PRICE REDUCTION
Due to the increased value of the Australian dollar since we originally costed the tour, we can now offer a substantially reduced cost.
Twin Share \$8750 Land content only.



Intriguing Trulli in Alberobello, Puglia

16-23 May 2010 Gardens of South East Queensland

Join us for an eight-day garden lovers' escape to Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba and Tamborine Mountain. Visit 13 private gardens and meet their owners. Take guided tours of Roma Street Parkland, Mt Coottha Botanic Gardens, Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens, the Japanese Gardens in Toowoomba and Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens. On the last day there is a special visit to the house and garden of Jeremy Coleby Williams. Visit several specialist nurseries and enjoy a bush tucker morning tea at Witjuti Grub Bushfood Nursery. An added highlight is a short stop at Eumundi Markets for a bit of retail therapy. Meet other Friends groups and share your gardening passions.

Price Guide: \$2,185 twin share/double land content only



Picardy garden in Toowoomba

October-November 2010 Argentina and Peru

The Friends is finalising an exciting trip to these two South American countries. The trip, escorted by Paul Urquhart, Editor of *Your Garden Magazine*, starts in Buenos Aires and takes in some of Argentina's best gardens and the essential tango experience. It will then move on to Peru and the fabled white city Arequipa, and Cusco, the magnificent capital of the Incas. See wonderful flora such as penstemons, bromeliads, fuchsias, salvias and heliconias growing wild. Travel to Machu Picchu, the lost city of the Incas, followed by a stay at the Sandoval Rainforest Lodge in the Tambopata National Park where you will see abundant wildlife such as macaws, humming birds and monkeys right at your cabin door. Topping it off is a trip to Peru's mini-Galapagos, the Ballestas Islands, which teem with sea birds and marine wildlife. The final itinerary will be available soon.

To register your interest in this trip, please contact the Friends' Office.

See details of the Tour Talk in the Summer Diary.



Orchid *Sobralia virginalis* is common around Machu Picchu

NEW MASTER CLASS FOR 2010

A new approach to botanical art

Renowned botanical artist Stephie Goss, who lives in the Macedon Ranges in Victoria, studied art and design as well as photography, and is currently working as a teacher. She has conducted painting workshops at the Jenny Phillips Botanical Art School of Melbourne for the past eight years as well as at the Adelaide, Geelong and Bendigo Botanic Gardens.

She has held a solo exhibition in Melbourne, exhibited and sold her work throughout Australia including the Friends of The Gardens' *Botanica* exhibitions.

Stephie is currently producing a series of cards for the Maggie Beer store in the Barossa Valley in South Australia, and she was mentioned in an article on botanic art in the Sydney Morning Herald in August 2008 as being one of the world's 20 top collectable botanic artists.

Her work varies from classical illustrative style to large vibrant, loose work demonstrating her love of colour and texture and a passion for the lusciousness of fruits and vegetables.

In April Stephie will conduct a class for the Friends at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney where she will invite students to express themselves artistically in either a contemporary or traditional style and learn to paint a subject larger than life.

Robyn Macintosh



Fig by Stephie Goss

For further information on this class and Bev Allen's or Charlotte Thodey's classes, please see below.

Acrylic Still Life with Charlotte Thodey

Thursday 11 and Friday 12 March, 9.30 am – 4 pm

The course emphasis will be on the close-up observation of nature and light. You will look at the basics of drawing and arrangement of the objects on the canvas, and the setting out of the painting according to the tonal values, then proceed to the careful building up and layering of colour to capture the light that reveals the fleshy essence of the fruit.

\$266, Friends \$240, includes morning tea and lunch



Still Life, by Charlotte Thodey

Bev Allen's Autumn Theme Art Master Class

Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 March, 9.30 am – 4 pm

A four-day botanical painting workshop with a focus on an autumn subject. With colour, we'll explore the light and shade, tone and form necessary to create a three-dimensional illusion on paper. We'll analyse the layers of colour needed to depict a plant realistically, and learn techniques of colour mixing and application of washes.

\$590, Friends \$530, includes morning tea and lunch

Stephie Goss: Master Class in Botanic Art with a difference

Tuesday 6 – Thursday 8 April, 9.30 am – 4 pm

We will paint on Arches 640 gsm paper and learn a painting technique which enables you to really experience the application of water colour washes using large brushes, and lots of paint and water. Your approach can be contemporary or traditional as you see your chosen colours merging on the paper. Some experience with water colour painting would be an advantage. Subject matter will be determined by seasonal fruit or vegetables.

\$400, Friends \$360, includes morning tea and lunch



Castanea sativa by Bev Allen

Summer Diary

DECEMBER



Women of Flowers

Saturday 12 December, 10.30 am – 12 noon
Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

The National Library of Australia has just published botanical artist Leonie Norton's book, *Women of Flowers: Botanical Art in Australia from the 1830s to the 1960s*. This book was over three years in the making and was an exciting voyage of discovery for Leonie, taking her into the lives and works of 10 colonial women artists. Leonie's illustrated talk will cover the making of the book and reveal some of the wonderful paintings, albums and diaries that were found in various libraries in Australia. *Women of Flowers* provides a rare insight into the lives of the

artists and showcases many of their exquisite botanical paintings sourced primarily from the National Library of Australia's Pictures Collections. It is a social history of these women and their contribution to botanical art and a celebration of their achievements. Leonie's book will be available for purchase at a special Friends' price and would make an ideal Christmas present for artists and gardening friends and relations. **\$18, Friends \$12, includes morning tea at 10.30 am**
The Growing Friends Nursery will be open from 9 am to 1 pm

JANUARY

Family Fun: Meet Sylvester the Digester and Friends

Wednesday 20 January, 10 am – 1 pm
Meet at the Friends' Cottage, Royal Botanic Gardens

Sylvester the Digester works 24 hours a day, seven days a week turning green waste in the Gardens into nutrient-rich compost in two to four weeks. Sylvester is one of only a few Vertical Composting Units in Australia producing a pathogen- and weed-free, high quality mulch and soil conditioner. After a scrumptious morning tea on the Friends' Terrace, we will visit Sylvester's friends at the worm farm and composting area with John Coco, Senior Education Horticulturist, before boarding the trackless train for a ride through the Gardens to see Sylvester at work with Curator Ross Clark. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

\$18, Friends \$12, Children under 12 \$6,
includes morning tea at 10 am. Numbers are limited so book early.



Sylvester the Digester

Simone Cottrell

FEBRUARY

Sogetsu Ikebana Demonstration

Saturday 13 February, 10.30 am – 12.15 pm
Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

Of all Japan's traditional arts perhaps the most famous and actively practised is Ikebana, the art of flower arranging. The Sogetsu School of Ikebana is recognised throughout the world for its sculptural form of art using plant materials. Whether a large construction or a single flower, Sogetsu Ikebana continues to create grace and enrich contemporary living and architectural spaces. Share in the ikebana creative process with Joan Perkins, Deputy Director Sogetsu Teachers Association, and experience how anyone can celebrate the wonder of plant life anywhere and any time. Information will be available about the celebration of 50 golden years of Sogetsu Ikebana in Australia and New Zealand on 17 – 21 May next year. **Visit www.sogetsu-ikebana.org.au**
\$35, Friends \$25, includes morning tea at 10.30 am



Sogetsu arrangement

Argentina-Peru Tour Talk

Monday 15 February, 10.30 am - 12 noon
Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

Join Andreas Holland from World Expeditions to hear about these amazing countries and the Friends' proposed trip in October 2010. Andreas' illustrated talk will take you to the dwarf forests of the coastal deserts, the unique vegetation of the high Andes and orchid-rich cloud forests. Step back in time to marvel at Cusco, the Inca capital, and the magnificent ruins of Machu Picchu. The Editor of *Your Garden* magazine Paul Urquhart, who will escort the tour, will offer some of the highlights of Buenos Aires. **\$15, Friends \$10**
Includes morning tea at 10.30am



Machu Picchu

Paul Urquhart

Jenny Pollak: 2009 Artist in Residence

Wednesday 17 February, 10 am – 12.30 pm
Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

Jenny Pollak, Royal Botanic Gardens 2009 Artist in Residence, will present a special lecture to Friends



describing the creative process that has led to her installation, *21%0*, in the Palm House and exhibition in the Red Box Gallery. Jenny will have her visual diaries and photographic prints for people to view, and following the lecture Jenny will take Friends on a guided tour of the Palm House and Red Box Gallery. **\$22, Friends \$15, includes light refreshments at 10.00 am**

Digital Photograph from the series 'Natural Selection', by Jenny Pollak

Botanic Gardens: an International and Local Perspective

Thursday 18 February, 10.30 am – 12 noon
Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

Join Janelle Hatherly, the Trust's Manager of Public Programs, for a virtual tour of South Africa's Botanic Gardens, the Apartheid Museum and Singapore's magnificent Botanic Gardens. Janelle received a Friends' scholarship to attend the 7th International Education Congress in Botanic Gardens in Durban in November 2009. In this talk she will share her insights into the role of botanic gardens as places of relaxation, enjoyment and learning. **\$18, Friends \$12, includes morning tea at 10.30 am**



Karoo Desert National Botanic Garden

Peter Cunneo

Sydney People and Places:

the Cumberland Plain in the Early 19th Century
Sunday 21 February, 10.30 am – 12 noon

Bowden Centre, Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Elizabeth Ellis, OAM, is the former Mitchell Librarian and is now the inaugural Emeritus Curator at the Mitchell Library and an Honorary Associate with the Department of History at the University of Sydney. In this presentation, she will recreate the world of the Europeans who first moved beyond the shores of Sydney Cove to settle the outer parts of the Sydney district across the Cumberland Plain. Through selections from their original letters, journals and pictorial works, Elizabeth will explore their personal and social aspirations and attitudes to the new environment, as well as legacies of their influence and some of the tangible reminders of their presence in their houses and possessions.

\$18, Friends \$12, includes morning tea at 10.30 am



Watercolour of Cow Pastures, home of J. Hassel c. 1825-28 by Augustus Earle

Master Class: a Sogetsu Ikebana Experience

Saturday 27 February, 9.30 am – 4 pm
Friends' Cottage, Royal Botanic Gardens

Learn the basic upright patterns of Sogetsu Ikebana under the direction of Sandy Marker who will instruct in the design, material characteristics and technical fixing methods. These will include Basic Upright Style Moribana (low flat container) and Basic Upright Style Nagarie (tall container). After instruction in both these styles, participants will be able to progress to freestyle arrangement. The day will conclude with a freestyle lesson – fun with leaves. Containers, kenzans (flower needle holders) and plant material will be supplied and participants will be able to take their flowers home. Details of what to bring will be advised with booking confirmation. **\$140, Members \$120, includes morning tea, lunch and plant material.**

Sogetsu arrangement

Joseph Hooker, Botanist and Unsung Hero of Evolution

Friday 12 March, 5.30 pm – 7 pm
Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

Filmmaker Dr Peter Donaldson is making a major television documentary on the life and importance of Sir Joseph Hooker, one of the greatest botanists of the 19th century. Joseph and his father William virtually established the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew as it is today and Joseph had a great influence on the theory of evolution. Despite his importance, Joseph Hooker is relatively unknown to the general public. Peter has delved deeply into his writing and journals to reveal the human side of this fascinating man. He will give an illustrated talk retracing Hooker's explorations and his collecting of rhododendrons in the Himalayas. He will also focus on Hooker's slow conversion from being a creationist to probably Darwin's greatest supporter. **\$18, Friends \$12, includes refreshments at 5.30 pm**



Peter Donaldson with snow rhododendrons at 5000 metres

Dan Novak

Australian Native Succulents

Wednesday 17 March, 10.30 am – 12 noon

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

There has been a long-standing and widespread view that Australia has almost no native succulents. Attila Kapitany, president of the Cactus & Succulent Society of Australia, will dispel this belief with a colourful visual tour of succulents in their natural habitat. Enjoy discovering lesser known and intriguing plants some of which are rare and very unusual, and learn how these succulents can be integrated into garden design in imaginative ways. Some interesting aspects of their usefulness beyond the aesthetic will also be covered. Attila will have plants and books for purchase. Visit www.australiansucculents.com

\$18, Friends \$12, includes morning tea at 10.30 am



Tecticornia verrucosa

Attila Kapitany

JENNY POLLAK: 2009 ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

History of life on earth an inspiration

The installation, entitled *21%0₂*, was inspired by events that took place on the planet over 3.8 billion years ago when oxygen was still scarce and the harmful effects of UV light prevented life from evolving on the earth's surface.

Captured by a vision of the planet as an enormous laboratory in which a great experiment was taking place

that would give rise to the conditions needed to enable life to evolve, Jenny Pollak, 2009 Artist in Residence at Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens, explores what has been described by some scientists as the single most important event in the history of life on earth – the rise to dominance of *Cyanobacteria*

Tree of Knowledge - 3rd Generation: digital photograph and computer generated image

(blue green algae). The evolution of all subsequent oxygen-dependent life on earth would not have been possible without this earliest known oxygenic photosynthesiser.

Using the wonderful glass structure of the Palm House as a venue for her work, Jenny Pollak uses video, overlaid sound, glass, and other materials to create a visual metaphor

for the alchemical process that took place on the planet billions of years ago.

Running concurrently with this installation will be an exhibition at the Red Box Gallery. Entitled *In the Beginning*, it is a body of work that has grown out of Jenny Pollak's investigation of the Gardens and its collections and is comprised of digital photographs, computer generated images and works on paper as well as some mixed media pieces. The exhibition takes a sideways look at evolution and the ancient lineage that runs back through time and connects humans indelibly to all living things.

Jenny Pollak's artistic career began in printmaking, drawing and photography in the 1970s. With participation in many individual and group exhibitions over her 30-year career, Jenny's work has evolved to include sculpture and installation. A fascination with the natural world can be seen in her work and demonstrates a rare acuteness of observation, one heightened by living in the natural beauty of Pittwater. Her artwork reflects her skill in transforming these observations as she reconfigures and re-invents what she sees, layering her works with meaning as she reveals unexpected connections between things.

In 2005-6 Jenny was Artist in Residence at the Electron Microscope Unit, University of Sydney, where she produced fascinating photographic images of microscopic marine organisms. She was subsequently invited to exhibit work in the Macleay Museum for the Tercentenary exhibition of Linnaeus in 2007 and the 50th anniversary of the Electron Microscope Unit in 2008.

Jenny received an Arts Council of Australia Grant for her installation* in the Palm House and the Botanic Gardens Trust congratulates her on a very successful year as our 2009 Artist in Residence.

*This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Time to celebrate the past and look to the future

Spring sprang earlier than usual this year, and now we are well into summer. The Friends visited both Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens over recent months, we held our second-hand book sale and ran a number of smaller events at both Mount Annan Botanic Garden and in the city at the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Spring is always busy and, for me, the best celebration is the annual *Artisan in the Gardens* exhibition and sale held in Lion Gate Lodge in the Royal Botanic Gardens. I joined the Friends seven years ago not long before *Artisans* that year and it was the most wonderful first major event for me to experience. Since that time *Artisans* has grown in all ways: income, and number of

exhibitors and visitors. Our thanks go to Peta Rattray, who curated *Artisans* again this year, and her team of dedicated helpers for a wonderful job in presenting this highly professional and acclaimed exhibition.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a very happy Christmas and a safe and joyful New Year. The Friends' office will be closed for the designated public holidays and also all day on New Year's Eve. Thank you for your wonderful support in 2009, in spite of the global financial crisis, and we look forward to seeing you in 2010.

Annie Sutherland
Executive Officer

THE FRIENDS OF THE GARDENS VOLUNTEERS' RECIPE BOOK

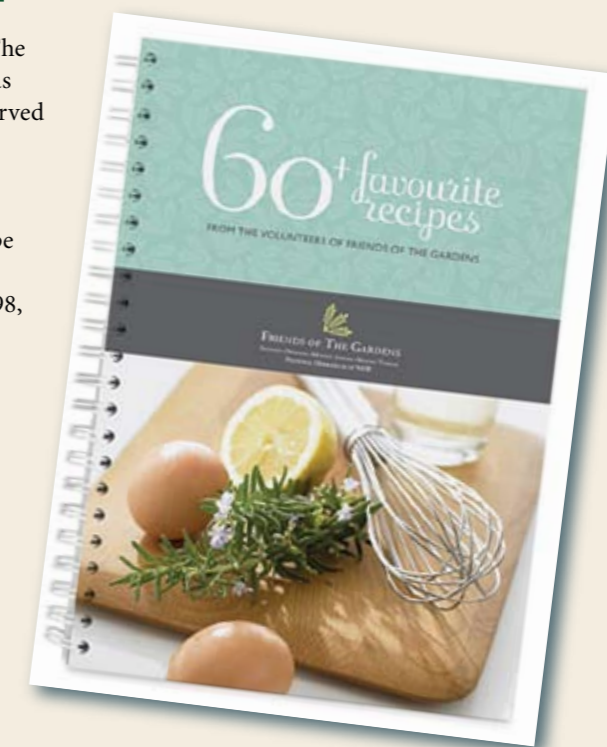
Cook up a storm with well tested recipes

One of the delights of attending the Friends of The Gardens events and activities over the years has been the chance to enjoy the culinary treats served by our catering volunteers. So popular are our caterers' gastronomic creations that the flood of requests for their recipes has led to the release of this compact edition of the Friends of The Gardens Volunteers' Recipe Book with a fresh, new look.

The Recipe Book was originally compiled in 1997-1998, revised and expanded in September 2003 and now this bumper edition incorporates 24 new recipes from the catering volunteers, and one special recipe from well known cook Belinda Jeffery.

It has been published in a convenient A5 format and is spiral bound so it easily lies flat when you're baking. It would make an ideal Christmas or birthday gift and is reasonably priced at \$20 if you buy from the office, or \$23 including postage.

By purchasing this book you're helping fund the Friends' valuable work supporting our world-renowned Gardens in Sydney, Mount Annan and Mount Tomah, as well as the National Herbarium of NSW.



Join the club and enjoy the benefits

20% off

Christmas membership 20 per cent discount offer

What better way to celebrate the festive season than to share the joy of a Friends' membership. Purchase a gift membership over summer and we'll give you 20 per cent off the regular price. Now that's a saving worth celebrating!

Friends' members receive a great range of benefits including free entry to Mount Annan and Mount Tomah Botanic Gardens, discounts on Friends' events and activities, opportunities to volunteer, access to the BGT Library and the Herbarium plant identification service, venue hire and most purchases at the Garden shops and restaurants. All this, plus a seasonal copy of *The Gardens* magazine packed with heaps of activities and information on the BGT estates.

To order your gift membership, complete the form in this copy of *The Gardens*, email us: friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au or call the Friends' Office on 02 9231 8182. Please allow a minimum of two weeks to process the membership application.

Discount dining at The Pond

The Pond is a breath of fresh air in Sydney's restaurant scene. Sited in the midst of the sandstone walls and dappled gardens of a heritage cottage in Darlinghurst, the bar and restaurant is an oasis of calm in Sydney's hectic dining landscape.

The weekly menu is focused on fresh local produce with an emphasis on simple, stylish recipes, traditional wisdom and ingredients that come from a farm, not a freezer.

As the building is reinvigorated, the courtyards of The Pond are sprouting new life. Garden beds and pots overflow with attractive plants, many selected in conjunction with Growing Friends.

Friend's members can save 10 per cent on their bill at The Pond by showing a current membership card. The Pond, 32 Burton Street, Darlinghurst, open Wednesday – Sunday, 12 noon to midnight. Reservations, telephone 02 9358 6923.



Members' special Christmas shopping day

It's Christmas time again and to help you find that special present at an extra special price, the Gardens Shops at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, the Mount Annan Botanic Garden and the Mount Tomah Botanic Garden are offering Friends' members a beautiful range of gifts at a fabulous 20 per cent discount. The special discount applies to everything except books, to which your usual 10 per cent discount applies.

Simply visit any of the three Gardens Shops on **Thursday 17 December**, show your membership card when you make your purchases and you'll

20% discount

receive this fabulous discount plus complimentary gift wrapping.

The Gardens Shops stock an impressive range of products, with something special to suit everyone. In addition to beautiful books, the shops provide an eclectic and unusual range of gifts: beautiful stationery (including RHS notebooks and journals), natural skincare products, fine chinaware, botanical prints, imaginative children's novelties and, of course, gardening tools. And don't forget that dinosaur of the botanical world, the Wollemi Pine. You can find out more about the shops and their services at the BGT website www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



Mount Annan Shop



Mount Tomah Shop



Royal Botanic Gardens Shop entrance

For a full list of Friends of The Gardens membership benefits and privileges visit our website: www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/friends or call the Friends office on 02 9231 8182

All members have the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting the work of the Botanic Gardens Trust and helping to protect and develop the Botanic Gardens, with revenue raised through membership fees, activities and donations.

Say it beautifully with a card



Artist Charlotte Thodey and Friends are selling her sumptuous images of fruits and vegetables in packs containing 10 postcards and 6 bookmarks. These are \$18 from the office and \$20 with postage.



The Friends' wide variety of merchandise includes the **2009 Waratah Xmas card** with Annie Hughes' beautiful painting (also available as a blank card) in packs of 10 for \$15 or with postage at \$18.



The popular *Stenocarpus* cards and Red Collection packs are \$15 for a pack of 12 or \$18 with postage.

By purchasing our merchandise, you're helping fund the Friends' valuable work.

BOOK REVIEW

Homages to the importance of plants

Australia's Remarkable Trees
Richard Allen and Kimbal Baker
The Miegunyah Press 2009

Trees of History and Romance
Michael Pembroke
Blooming Books 2009

First Fleet Artist
Linda Groom
National Library of Australia 2009

Women of Flowers
Leonie Norton
National Library of Australia 2009

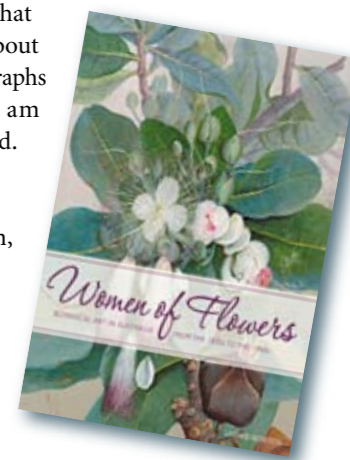
These books offer a reminder as to the essential importance of what we know about the plants that 'grow' in books. The two books about trees offer opposite visual experiences. The simply beautiful photographs of Kimbal Baker reveal the magnificence of 50 wonderful trees; and I am sure for each one chosen there is another dozen that are known and loved.

From images of the Wollemi Pine to the beautiful sugar gum in the Waite arboretum in South Australia, from the monkey puzzle tree's tangled geometry to the solitary Ponderosa Pine on Khancoban Station, the photography captures the timeless splendour of these unique trees. Richard Allen's text reveals their history and significance, but a small quibble, the font is unnecessarily small.

Trees may also be celebrated in delicate drawings, as in those by Libby Raines in Michael Pembroke's 'anthology' of trees. Here are trees in poetry and prose, in gardens and in the wild, in legend and anecdote, and in the author's garden in the Blue Mountains. Blooming with esoteric facts, the joy of growing, and the identifying character of each tree, this is a book to dip into or explore more thoroughly.

The Friends annual homage to botanical illustration, *Botanica*, stands on strong shoulders as shown in two books on botanical art. George Raper travelled to Australia with the First Fleet and he recorded the unique and marvellous birds and plants of this new world. The engrossing story of his too brief life and work, and how much of it was acquired by the National Library, forms the first part of the book, with the second being devoted to a dazzling portfolio of illustrations.

Leonie Norton's exploration of 'Women of Flowers' reveals many treasures held in Australian institutions and here they are meticulously reproduced. Delicate buds, startling butterflies, flowers in bunches brilliant and sometimes improbable glow on every page. For all these women their art was far more than only a pastime. Here is an acknowledgment of what we owe them, and a recognition of how many struggled in order to paint.



See Summer Diary for details of an illustrated talk by Leonie Norton on *Women of Flowers*.

Dr Alison Halliday



Join the Friends ~ Help our Botanic Gardens grow

To join the Friends or renew your Friends' membership, please return this completed form with your payment to:

Friends of The Gardens
Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney NSW 2000
Or fax: 9241 3064 Enquiries: ph: 9231 8182
Email: Friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

I/we wish to join the Friends of The Gardens,
or renew my/our Friends' membership

Individual Standard \$59 per year Household Standard \$76 per year
One or two adults and children under 18

Individual Concession \$47 per year Pensioner/Student No: _____
Single Pensioner (not Senior Citizen)
or Full-time Undergraduate Student

Place of Study: _____

Household Concession \$60 per year
One or two adults (pensioners or Full-time Undergraduate Students)
and children under 18 (pension no. needed for each adult)

Pensioner/Student No(1): _____ No(2): _____

Place of Study: _____

Association/Club \$110 per year
Registered clubs or associations receive 3 transferable cards
See page 15 for details of increases in membership subscription prices

Waratah
In addition to the membership fees above, Waratah members make an annual tax deductible donation from the categories below. The amount may be varied each year

BRONZE WARATAH: \$250-\$499
SILVER WARATAH: \$500-\$999
GOLD WARATAH: \$1000 & above

PAYMENT DETAILS (Please note you may join for multiple years)

Membership fees include GST. Donations are GST free.
Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible

Membership fee \$ _____ for _____ years

Waratah donation \$ _____ (\$250 or more)

Other donation \$ _____ Donations \$2 & over
are tax deductible

Overseas postage \$ _____ (Please add \$20 for
overseas postage)

Total \$ _____
 Credit card Cash Cheque
Please make cheques out to Friends of The Gardens

Mastercard Visa

Expiry date ____ / ____ Signature _____

Name on credit card _____

OFFICE USE	CHECK	CARDS
	CONTACT	BATCH
	MEMBERSHIP	RECEIPT



Give a gift membership
for Christmas
and save 20%



NEW or CONTINUING MEMBER DETAILS

If renewing: membership number _____
current expiry date _____
(shown on address sheet)

Ms/Mrs/Mr/Other _____ Given Name _____

Surname _____

(Household membership may give second adult's names below)

Ms/Mrs/Mr/Other _____ Given Name _____

Surname _____

Children's names & d.o.b. _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ Postcode _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Mobile _____ fax _____

Email (please print) _____

Age Group

18-35 36-49

50-65 over 65

How did you hear about the Friends?

GIFT PROVIDER

If purchasing this membership for someone else, provide their details in the New Member section above, and your details below.
Details of person giving the gift membership:

Member Number (If member) _____

Ms/Mrs/Mr/Other _____ Given Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ Postcode _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

Mobile _____ fax _____

Email (please print) _____

Message to be attached to gift: _____

Send gift membership to:

me for forwarding direct to recipient

Send future renewal notices to:

me recipient

FRIENDS OF THE GARDENS BOOKING FORM – DECEMBER 2009, JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2010

Note: It is recommended you access the Maiden Theatre from Mrs Macquaries Road

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME	PLACE	Please fill in number of tickets required			Amount	CHECK
				Non-Members Price	Members Price	No		
Women of Flowers	Sat 12 Dec	10.30am-12noon	Maiden Theatre, Royal BG	\$18	\$12			
New Year's Eve with the Friends	Thu 31 Dec		SOLD OUT					
Family Fun: Meet Sylvester the Digester	Wed 20 Jan	10am-1pm	Friends' Cottage, Royal BG Children under 12	\$18	\$6			
Sogetsu Ikebana Demonstration	Sat 13 Feb	10.30am-12.15pm	Maiden Theatre, Royal BG	\$35	\$25			
Argentina Peru Tour Talk	Mon 15 Feb	10.30am-12noon	Maiden Theatre, Royal BG	\$15	\$10			
Jenny Pollak - 21%02	Wed 17 Feb	10am-12.30pm	Maiden Theatre, Royal BG	\$22	\$15			
Botanic Gardens: a Perspective	Thu 18 Feb	10.30am-12noon	Maiden Theatre, Royal BG	\$18	\$12			
Sydney People and Places	Sun 21 Feb	10.30am-12noon	Bowden Centre, Mount Annan BG	\$18	\$12			
Master class: a Sogetsu Ikebana	Sat 27 Feb	9.30am-4pm	Friends' Cottage, Royal BG	\$140	\$120			
Acrylic Still Life with Charlotte Thodey	Thu 11-Fri 12 Mar	9.30am-4pm	Friends' Cottage, Royal BG	\$266	\$240			
Joseph Hooker, Botanist	Fri 12 Mar	5.30pm-7pm	Maiden Theatre, Royal BG	\$18	\$12			
Australian Native Succulents	Wed 17 Mar	10.30am-12noon	Maiden Theatre, Royal BG	\$18	\$12			
Bev Allen's Autumn Theme Art Class	Tue 23-Fri 26 Mar	9.30am-4pm	Friends' Cottage, Royal BG	\$590	\$530			
Stephie Goss - larger than life	Tue 6-Thu 8 Apr	9.30am-4pm	Friends' Cottage, Royal BG	\$400	\$360			
Botanica 2010 Opening Night	Thu 15 Apr	6pm-8pm	Lion Gate Lodge, Royal BG	\$45	\$35			
HELPING HANDS	Thu 10 Dec	8.45am	Friends' Terrace, Royal BG	Members only	Free			
HELPING HANDS	Thu 21 Jan	8.45am	Friends' Terrace, Royal BG	Members only	Free			
HELPING HANDS	Thu 18 Feb	8.45am	Friends' Terrace, Royal BG	Members only	Free			
DONATION amounts of \$2.00 and over are tax-deductible - a receipt will be issued					Donation			
Please send me _____ pack of 2009 Waratah Christmas Cards pack of 10 cards @ \$18 incl. postage								
Please send me _____ pack of 2009 Waratah blank Cards pack of 10 cards @ \$18 incl. postage								
Please send me _____ Charlotte Thodey Postcard/Bookmark pack @ \$20 incl. postage								
Please send me _____ pack of 'Red Collection' Mixed Cards pack of 12 cards @ \$18 incl. postage								
Please send me _____ Friends' Volunteers' Recipe Book @ \$23 incl. postage								
Parking Passes are available, to Members Only on the following dates: <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Dec <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Jan <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Feb <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Feb <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Feb <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Feb <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Feb								
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 - 12 Mar (\$13) <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Mar <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Mar <input type="checkbox"/> 23 - 26 Mar (\$26) <input type="checkbox"/> 6 - 8 Apr (\$19.50) <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Apr @ \$6.50 each (unless otherwise stated)								
Bookings will be processed once payment has been received								

A stamped self-addressed DL
(11 X 22cm) envelope is appreciated
for return of confirmation
Return form with payment to:
**Friends of The Gardens,
Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Road,
Sydney 2000**
or FAX credit card details
to 9241 3064
or email
Friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

How did you hear about this event?

Name _____ Membership number _____
Address _____ Postcode _____
Suburb _____ Mobile _____
Telephone (day) _____ Fax _____
(evening) _____
Email _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT (please tick one)

CREDIT CARD \$ _____

CASH \$ _____

Mastercard Visa

CHEQUE \$ _____
(Please make cheque out to:
FRIENDS OF THE GARDENS)

Cardholder's name (block letters): _____

Cardholder's signature: _____



Royal Botanic Gardens

Throughout Summer: Guided walks in the city's green heart

Volunteer Guides give free guided walks at 10.30 every day. Meet at the Palm Grove Centre.

Mon 14, Tue 15 Dec & Mon 21 Dec

10.30 am - 12 noon & 1 pm - 2.30 pm

Botanical Christmas Craft, Kids Activity for ages 6 - 12

Children enjoy making special Christmas decorations and wreaths from plant materials

Community Education via Woolloomooloo Gate, \$15 *\$13.50, Bookings 9231 8134

Mon 11 - Fri 16 Jan & Mon 18 - Fri 22 Jan,

10.30 am - 12 noon & 1 pm - 2.30 pm

Passage to India, Kids' School Holiday Activity for ages 6 - 12

Inspired by the AGNSW exhibition Garden & Cosmos, we have an Indian art theme for our summer program - children will visit the lotus ponds and make block prints with natural materials

Community Education via Woolloomooloo Gate, \$15 *\$13.50, Bookings 9231 8134

Fri 5 Feb - Fri 26 Mar, 10 am - 4 pm weekdays

In the Beginning, Art Exhibition

With artworks created during her year as 2009 BGT Artist in Residence, Jenny Pollak takes a sideways look at evolution and the ancient lineage that connects humans indelibly to all living things

Red Box Gallery, Free, Enquiries 9231 8134

Fri 12 Feb - Mon 22 Feb, 10 am - 4 pm daily

21%O₂, Art Installation

2009 BGT Artist in Residence Jenny Pollak uses glass, mirrors, video, sound and paper to create a visual metaphor for the alchemical process of the earliest appearance of life on earth in this installation

Palm House, Free, Enquiries 9231 8134



Hannah McPherson

A history of happy accidents

Hindsight is a funny thing. If I look back, I can construct a reality in which I was always going to end up as a scientist at the Royal Botanic Gardens. As a child, I loved being in the bush. I was fascinated by wildlife and loved exploring. At 16, I went on a camping trip with friends to protest about logging of old growth areas in southern NSW, so I suppose my passion for plant conservation was there for a long time too.

I completed an Honours degree in Environmental Science (majoring in plant ecology) in 1995 and then worked for a few years teaching in the botany classes at the university and conducting flora surveys around Sydney for a botanical consultant.

In 1999, I took up a position at the Botanic Gardens as one of the Herbarium curators. After a few years, I decided to do a PhD (at the Trust through the University of New England) which I completed last May. I now hold a research position looking into how the evolution of our rainforests has been shaped by past climate. It seems like an obvious progression when one writes it like that, doesn't it?

In reality though, my being here began with a happy accident. It's true I have always loved the bush but after a few years thinking I would like to be a vet, I really decided that I wanted to be an artist. So after high school I visited all the art schools to see whether it was possible to do some maths, physics or language classes as part of a fine art degree. They all looked at me as if I had three heads.

The science schools were more accommodating and were happy for me to include art or language in the course. This is how I came to enrol in science.

Coming from a family of paper conservators, I was always surrounded by collections - old books, archives and artworks. At some stage I toyed with the idea of going into art conservation and did some training in paper conservation with my parents. The part-time work that saw me through university was as a paper conservation and archive assistant at the NSW Parliamentary Archives, experience that turned out to be just as relevant as my biology degree for a position as a curator in a herbarium. Another happy accident?

I never imagined going back to University either but, after being surrounded by plant collections and people passionate about plants and conservation for a few years, I wanted to learn more about plant relationships, evolution and ecology. I enrolled in a PhD investigating evolutionary patterns in *Tetratheca*, an endemic Australian plant genus with about a third of its species classed as rare or threatened.

Working here was certainly not something I had ever planned or even thought of. In fact I couldn't have imagined that I would find a place to satisfy so many of my interests. I spend time out in the bush collecting plants, extracting DNA in the molecular laboratory, curating collections in the Herbarium and conducting research. After 10 years, I continue to drive my friends crazy when they ask me if I still love my job and my answer is always 'yes!'



After a long day in the field collecting *Tetratheca*.

In 2005, I received the Friends' Staff Scholarship to travel to France and the UK for training and experience in molecular techniques, and in December last year I was the recipient of the 2008 Australia Germany Association Fellowship. This took me to Hamburg, Germany, to work on the Australian botanical collections of Amalie Dietrich, a nineteenth century naturalist who collected plants in Queensland from 1863 to 1872.

Having delved almost 400 years back in time I now find myself catapulting into the future, working with brand new molecular technology that allows us to sequence whole plant genomes in a matter of days and investigate the evolution of our rainforest flora.



Fieldwork, Duffy's Forest with Flora Botanist Louisa Murray

Mount Annan Botanic Garden

Sat 19 Dec, 5 pm to 9 pm

Landcom Carols in the Garden

Lakeside, Free, Enquiries 4634 7935

All of January

Kids Grow Wild School Holiday Activities

Lots of fun for the kids at the Garden.

Enquiries: 4634 7935

Mon 25 Jan, Entertainment from 7 pm, movie starts at 8 pm

Aussies Under the Stars,

a celebration of Australian Movies

Lakeside, \$15 per car, Enquiries 4634 7935

Fri 5 and 19 Feb, 6.30 pm

Wallaby Walkabout

Come for a walk on dusk and see the thriving wallaby population living in the Garden, and sunset from Sundial Hill

Meet at the entry booth, \$5 pp or \$20/group booking up to 6 ppl, Bookings essential 4634 7935

Sun 14 Feb, from 5 pm

Lovers by Lakeside

Show your partner how much they mean to you with a romantic picnic at Lakeside for Valentines Day

Lakeside, \$130 per couple, Bookings essential 4634 7935

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

All Summer, 10 am - 5 pm

Fantastic Fossils & Dinosaur Feet Treasure Quest

Come and check out our fossil collection and find the hidden fossils and dinosaurs in the garden

\$3.00 per quest + garden entry fee, Enquiries 4567 2154

Fri 15 & Fri 22 Jan, 11 am - 1 pm

Seed Pod People and Gum Nut Babies

Come on a plant craft workshop extravaganza - age 5 and up (younger children welcome if attended by a parent).

Waratah Education Centre,

\$12 per child (after garden entry), Bookings 4567 2154

Sat 16 Jan - Sun 21 Feb, 10 am - 5 pm Under The Sun

An exhibition of works by Australian Ecological Art. Artists, Scott Cardamatis and Joseph Saad

Visitor Centre, Free*, Enquiries 4567 2154

Sat 6 Feb, 6 pm - 10 pm Sunset Jazz

A celebration of local jazz and wines, guests may drink in the panoramic mountain views under the setting sun at Restaurant Tomah whilst enjoying a sumptuous 7 course meal.

The accompaniment of Tara Maher's soulful voice will add to the peaceful ambience of the evening.

Restaurant Tomah, Tickets are \$125, Bookings essential 4567 3019

Sat 27 Feb, 11 am - 1 pm

Grow Your Own Food! Workshop

Waratah Education Centre, \$25 per person *\$22.50, Bookings 4567 2154

Sat 27 Feb - Sun 7 Mar, 10 am - 5 pm.

Plants With Bite! - Carnivorous Plant Display and Fair

Information sessions will be at 11 am and 2 pm each

Saturday and Sunday during the fair

Visitor Centre, Free*, Enquiries 4567 2154

Sat 6 Feb, 10 am - 3 pm

Orchid Penjing Botanic Sculpture

Join Tony Lennon in creating a Penjing work from carved sandstone and orchids

Waratah Education Centre. \$95 *\$85.50.

Bookings essential 4567 2154

Key Free* = Free after Garden entry fee F*% = discount for Friends Event details may change after publication





Bright new signs lead the way

by Rebecca Moutia
Manager Marketing and Events, Mount Annan Botanic Garden

After standing silent guard to the entry of the Mount Annan Botanic Garden for over 20 years, the monolith signs that greet visitors were due for a facelift so the sign committee decided to take action.

After much discussion and design input from the design team in Sydney, the new look entry signs were recently unveiled to much positive feedback from visitors, who all said what a wonderful change the signs made to the entry.



Jaime Plaza

The new look entry signs have received much positive feedback from visitors

Designed in keeping with the gentle slope of the entry gate way and welcome monolith on Narellan Road, which reflect the undulating hills within the Garden,

the vibrant signs, in bright pink, purple, yellow, green and orange, make a big welcome statement.

In addition to the new entry signs, new way-finding signs have also been installed, one in front of the Visitors' Centre and two in pertinent locations within the central car park. These new

signs, funded from money generously donated by the Friends of the Gardens, are a start to a new suite of way-finding signage to be implemented throughout the Garden.

Visitors should also keep an eye out for a list of new events running at Mount Annan Botanic Garden this year, including a new local photographic competition that will enable keen photographers to take on a new challenge and consider again what makes a good photograph.

For arts lovers, the newest star to shine at Mount Annan will be 'Opera in the Garden' on Saturday 20 March, with Italian tenor Dario Sebastiani from Naples, on the lawn at Lakeside. This is the first time an event of this calibre will be held at the Garden and hopefully the first of many yet to come.

Of course, the old favourites will continue, including the newest addition to the event calendar, the Australian Cinema Night on Monday 25 January, as well as 'Lovers by Lakeside' on Valentine's Day and AnnanRoma on Sunday 18 April so mark them on your calendar now.

And don't forget to come to the 2009 Landcom 'Carols in the Garden' on Saturday 19 December. This great event gets bigger each year.

Green Team given insight into scientific work

Offering our supporters an insight into the work of the Botanic Gardens is a meaningful way to talk about the achievements of our scientists.

In September, about 20 managers from Allianz Australia had an immersion experience in the Herbarium. The group were all members of the Allianz Green Team – a committed and concerned group working to improve the environment. Collectively and individually they devise and implement strategies for implementation by their work colleagues. They are the environmental champions.

Their visit started with a presentation by Trust scientists Dr Cathy Offord and Dr Kim Hamilton about the conservation work the Trust is doing, including collaboration with other seedbanks and herbaria around Australia and the world, and a particular look at the work being undertaken by Kim on the conservation of rainforest seeds.

This latter research is currently being funded by donations from Allianz and two other benefactors via a three-year pledge. As Kim explained, the work is the first of its kind, largely because of the high degree of difficulty in preserving rainforest seeds. The high moisture content of these species typically means that the seed cannot be preserved by the regular drying (desiccation) techniques.

Whilst rainforests are a small part of Australia (less than one per cent), they contain over 30 per cent of the plant species. Destruction or loss of our rainforests is constantly threatening this important biodiversity.

After Kim's and Cathy's presentations, the group was highly attentive on a tour of the Herbarium with botanist Louisa Murray, where they saw some of our original Banks and Solander collection, and the Library where librarian Miguel Garcia showed his usual charm.



Librarian Miguel Garcia shows the Allianz Green Team some of the original Banks and Solander collection in the Herbarium library.

From the Foundation

A spring walk and tour with Darwin

by Pauline Markwell
Director, Botanic Gardens Foundation



On tour in the Royal Botanic Gardens. Flora Deverell, Ian McLachlan, Harriett England, Jane Garling and Richard England.

Spring is always a delight in the Royal Botanic Gardens. But this year seemed even more so with the Spring Walk looking its most glorious in years. So a small group of enthusiastic garden lovers and benefactors, led by volunteer guide Flora Deverell, was able to enjoy the colours, perfumes and beauty while, at the same time, being thoroughly educated.

Flora was in top form to take this group on a Darwin tour. Having researched this tour, she was able to explain about the evolution of plants over time, identifying particular species in the collection to illustrate her points.

Starting in the Red Box Gallery where they compared Darwin's Tree of Life to those of today, the group members learned about Darwin, his family and his travels.

In the Tropical Centre, they saw in bloom *Angraecum sesquipedale*, the orchid which led Darwin to predict that a moth with a proboscis 30 cm long must exist, to pollinate it.

Celebrating summer at Mount Tomah

by Kristen Winder
Manager, Visitor Services and Marketing, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden

With panoramic views that stretch from Sydney to the Hunter Valley and with over 5,000 different species of plants and many welcoming shady retreats, Mount Tomah Botanic Garden is the ideal summer destination. Displays of Puya, the blossoming Japanese Dogwoods and the profusion of Lavenders in the Rock Garden combine with sweet-scented Rhododendrons to herald summer's arrival.

Mount Tomah Botanic Garden's Summer of Art commences on Saturday 16 January with the arrival

of *Under The Sun*, an exhibition of works by Australian Ecological Art. The elaborate works in this exhibition capture the essence of Australia's rich floral diversity in art.



A new form of contemporary Australian art showcases Australian flora in a unique and accurate form.

Artists Scott Cardamatis and Joseph Saad believe they have pioneered a new form of contemporary Australian art that not only showcases Australian flora in a unique and accurate form, but is perhaps the most original and sustainable, eco-friendly art form available on the market today.

They make use of recycled products purchased from organisations that are revegetating degraded land to reduce carbon emissions, fight salinity and provide habitat for wildlife. The exhibition will be on display in the Visitor Centre until Sunday 21 February and selected works will be on sale through the Gardens shop.

A celebration of local jazz and wines, *Sunset Jazz*, returns to Mount Tomah Botanic Garden on Saturday 6 February. Guests may drink in the panoramic mountain views under the setting sun at Restaurant Tomah while enjoying a sumptuous five-course meal. The accompaniment of Tara Maher's soulful voice

will add to the peaceful ambience of the evening. Tickets are priced at \$125 and places are limited so bookings are essential. To reserve your ticket or for more information, please call (02) 4567 3019.

Family fun is on offer during the summer school holidays at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden's new adventure quest, *Fantastic Fossils and Dinosaur Feet*. This self-guided family activity, coupled with a picnic or barbecue lunch from our free electric barbecues, makes for a memorable day out. Alternatively, why not book your kids into our school holiday workshops for a more structured children's activity. Workshop places are limited and bookings are essential.

Sneak a brief glimpse of the *Carnivorous Plant Fair – Plants with Bite!*, which commences as summer draws to a close. A large array of carnivorous plants will be on show for one week from 27 February.



A carnivorous beauty: *Nepenthes x Kinabaluensis*

Learn how these intriguing plants have adapted to nutrient deficient environments by feeding on meat. The Visitor Centre will house a spectacular carnivorous plant display with rare plants for sale and information sessions scheduled for 11 am and 2 pm each Saturday and Sunday during the fair.

Discover the botanical wonders of the Garden's collection with a volunteer guided tour at 11.30 am or visit our Gardens Shop for botanically inspired gifts from local artists.

For enquiries or bookings for summer activities at Mount Tomah Botanic Garden, visit www.rbgnsyd.nsw.gov.au or www.mounttomahbotanicgarden.com.au or phone (02) 4567 2154.



Member Privilege

Helping Hands: experience summer in the Sydney Gardens – Members Only

Thursday 10 December 2009, 21 January 2010 and 18 February 2010

Meet at 8.45 am on the Friends' Terrace, Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Road



Summer in the Gardens is a busy time and what could be more fun than helping with the myriad jobs in one of the most beautiful botanic gardens in the world? As members of Helping Hands, Friends' members are accorded the privilege of working alongside the RBG horticultural staff.

Begin the morning with a cuppa on the Terrace while the horticulturalist in charge outlines the range

of work organised for the morning – it may be mulching, weeding, or transplanting. Helping Hands usually finishes around midday.

Please note: you must have sturdy leather work boots or walking boots with ankle support and bring hat, sunscreen, gloves and drinking water so you are comfortable and protected for outdoor work. You may request a parking pass for Mrs Macquaries Road at the Friends' office on the day.

Please fill in the enclosed booking form or call the office on 9231 8182 to take part on any of the above dates. There is no charge but bookings are essential.

Member Benefit

special offer

Subscribe to Country Style and save 28 per cent

Country Style magazine celebrates the diversity of modern country living. Combining quality journalism and stunning photography, Country Style brings to life the stories of inspirational people and amazing places around Australia. It chronicles wonderful homes and gardens and all the good things of country life, and travels through Australia's most vibrant regional centres.

Friends of The Gardens' members can subscribe or extend their subscription to Country Style magazine for 12 months for just \$69. That's a saving of a whopping \$26.40 or 28 per cent on the cover price.

To take advantage of this great offer and have Country Style magazine delivered free to your door, call 1300 656 933 and quote 3276 or visit www.magsonline.com.au/countrystyle/3276
This offer is available to December 31, 2009



Friends of the Botanic Gardens Inc.

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12 km west of Bilpin

Telephone (02) 4567 2154

Facsimile (02) 4567 2037

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Mount Annan Drive,

Mount Annan 2567

57 km south-west of Sydney

just off M5 Motorway

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Friends of the Botanic Gardens Inc., was established to encourage the use and enjoyment of the Gardens, and to involve the community in the scientific, educational, historical, cultural and recreational functions of the Gardens and the National Herbarium. The Friends serves as a link between the Botanic Gardens Trust and the community and promotes, supports and contributes to the development of the Gardens.