

BOTANIC

Summer 2021- 22

NEWS



MELBOURNE FRIENDS
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

- Highlights from the State Botanical Collection
- Guilfoyle's Landscaping of the RGB (1873-1909)
- Reflections on 40 years of The Friends
- Season's Greetings to all our Members

Friends' Plant Sale and Pre-Loved Garden Book Sale

Join us at our big Pre-Loved
Garden Book Sale.

Grow your gardening library with pre-loved garden books
including treasured specialty books at fabulous prices.

Also visit the Friends' Plant Sale
Advanced trees, Vireyas, Camellias and much more
Limited stock so don't miss out.



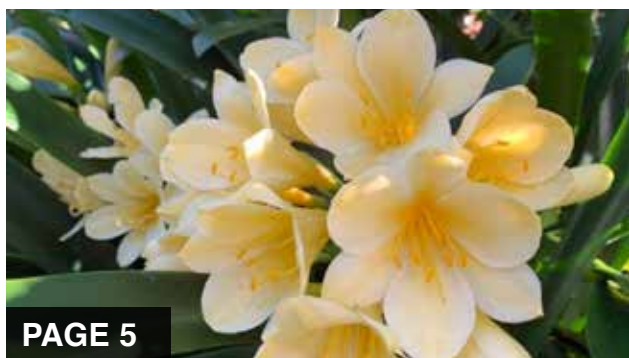
Plant Sale
Glasshouse Lawn
Saturday 4 December
10am - 3pm

PreLoved Book Sale
Mueller Hall,
Saturday 4 - 5 December
10am - 3pm



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BOTANIC NEWS

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

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work and learn and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

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A very warm welcome to all our members with this summer edition of Botanic News.

The Friends have celebrated the Gardens 175th Anniversary with a marvellous series of online talks. There have been talks and articles on Baron von Mueller, the Birrarung Land, Women of the Gardens and Guilfoyle's Landscaping. The rich history of our Buildings and Shelters in the Gardens by Cathy Trinca was also presented with historic photos, many not seen before.

The Events Committee have done a sterling job in sourcing interesting speakers for their Zoom lecture series bringing joy during lockdown. It is very satisfying to see so many of our friends enjoying the talks on such a range of topics about famous gardens in England, Scotland, Paris and Kew Botanic Gardens. Also explored were Victoria's terrestrial orchids, rare wattles with Neville Walsh and our remarkable treescape with Manager of Arboriculture, Charlie Carroll that has shaped the Gardens over the 175 years.

If you missed any of these marvellous and inspiring presentations, recordings of the online talks are available to view at your leisure on the Friends' website. We sincerely thank our Events Committee for all their hard work to bring us such a rewarding series.

Next year we are marking the 40th Anniversary of the Friends. There has been much forward planning and an exciting programme has been proposed in 2022.

Our usual events and workshops put on by the Plant Craft Cottage, the Growing Friends' Plant Sales and reFraming Nature exhibition had to be cancelled due to Covid 19 lockdowns. The Growing Friends however are organising a Christmas sale on Sunday 4 December so look out for the notice about that. Hopefully we can look forward to the Friends' Pre Loved Book Sale in Mueller Hall on Saturday 4 December and Sunday 5 December. The fabulous Christmas raffle with so many outstanding prizes, will also be drawn at the Friends' Christmas Party on 13 December. We thank the donors for their very generous support.

I hope you have a pleasant Christmas with your family and friends and again many thanks for all the support you have given the Friends over the past year and let us hope for better things next year.

Lynsey Poore
President



1. Anne Peterson - Guilfoyle's Volcano
2. Jane Bennett - Sensory Garden
3. Keith Ross - *Stenocarpus sinuatus*
4. Coula Panagis
5. Chris Stott - *Brachychiton rupestris*

Cover Image:
Stephen Bywater

Sandi Edlin – Growing Friends' Volunteer

Recently I had a conversation with Sandi Edlin, who has been a Growing Friends' volunteer since 1989. During our extensive conversation, we covered the value of volunteering and trying something even though one may not have expertise or skills in a particular area.

For Sandi, she fell into the Growing Friends by accident and with no knowledge of gardening or plants or even at that stage a passion for plants. Sandi talks of how she watched her mother-in-law and neighbour doing their gardening and always loved the results of their efforts. At the time, Sandi didn't have any interest or need to learn as she was raising a young family.

One day however, Sandi walked into the Royal Botanic Gardens some 32 years ago and just decided on a whim to join the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, a fledgling group. Having spent some time trying to work out what her interests were she thought maybe it was time to learn something and identify an interest. From that first step of joining the Friends, Sandi also enrolled in a botany course offered by Burnley College and she also sought out other activities.

It was just as the Growing Friends group had been established by Gillian and Neil Kirk, a year before (1988), Sandi joined keen to share knowledge of growing plants and experiences. The early days were 'come in any Friday' and be assigned a plant area to look after. Lots of talk, cups of tea and exchange of ideas of what to grow and how to grow them. From this came her passion for gardens and plants. For Sandi the early days were spent on Clivias and Irises with other new members. From these first steps came lifelong friendship and passion for plants.

The day starts early for Sandi at the Growing Friends, around 7 am and from there, depending on the seasons, from preparing cuttings or seedlings or general plant maintenance to potting up or reviewing the coming years plant requirements. Much of what is grown is for the Spring and

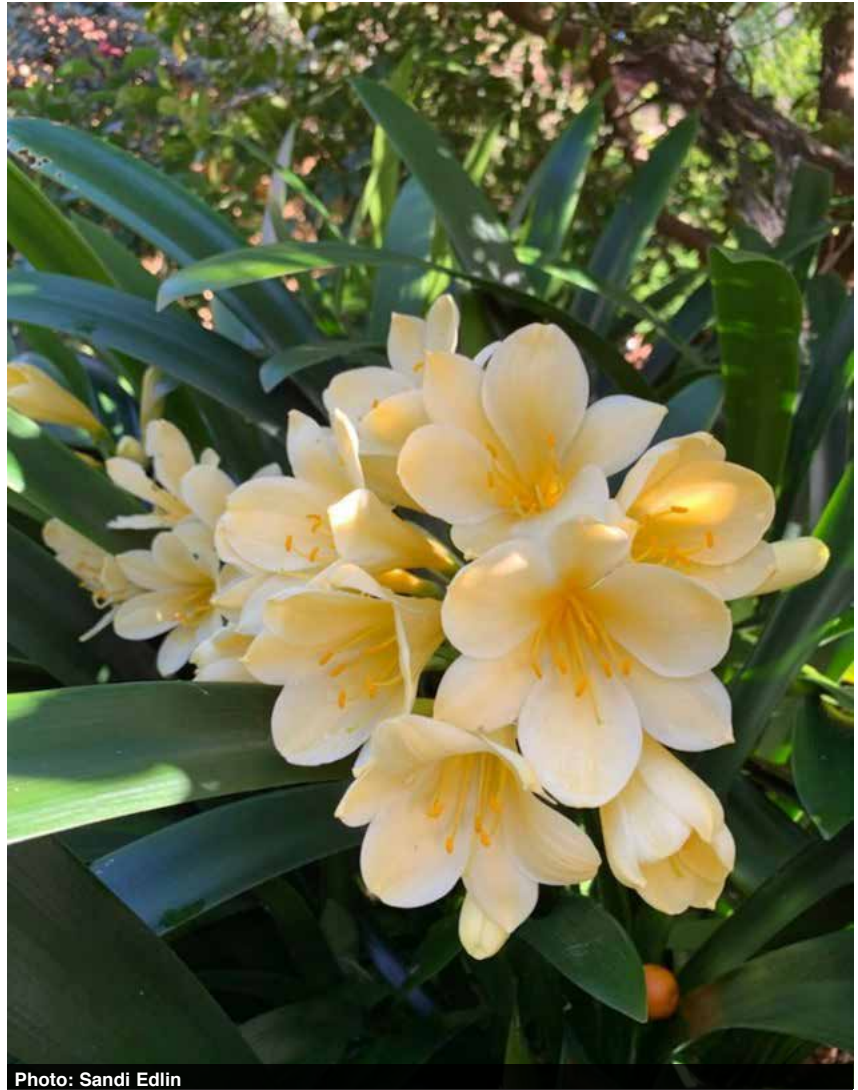


Photo: Sandi Edlin

Autumn plant sales, the major events held every year and an important fund raising activity for the Friends of the Botanic Gardens. With the plant sales scheduled, the plants grown must look their best at these times and therefore some plants are not grown – such as a wide variety of bulbs, as they may not be in flower at plant sale times. There are so many other plants that are always in demand, such as the Irises, Clivias, succulents, herbs, Camellias etc.

Over the years, Sandi didn't just stay with the Growing Friends, she also became a RBGV Guide for five years and continued to build her knowledge of both the Gardens and the plants.

From this small start, Sandi has now expanded her interests in gardening to providing assistance to home gardeners who need help. The

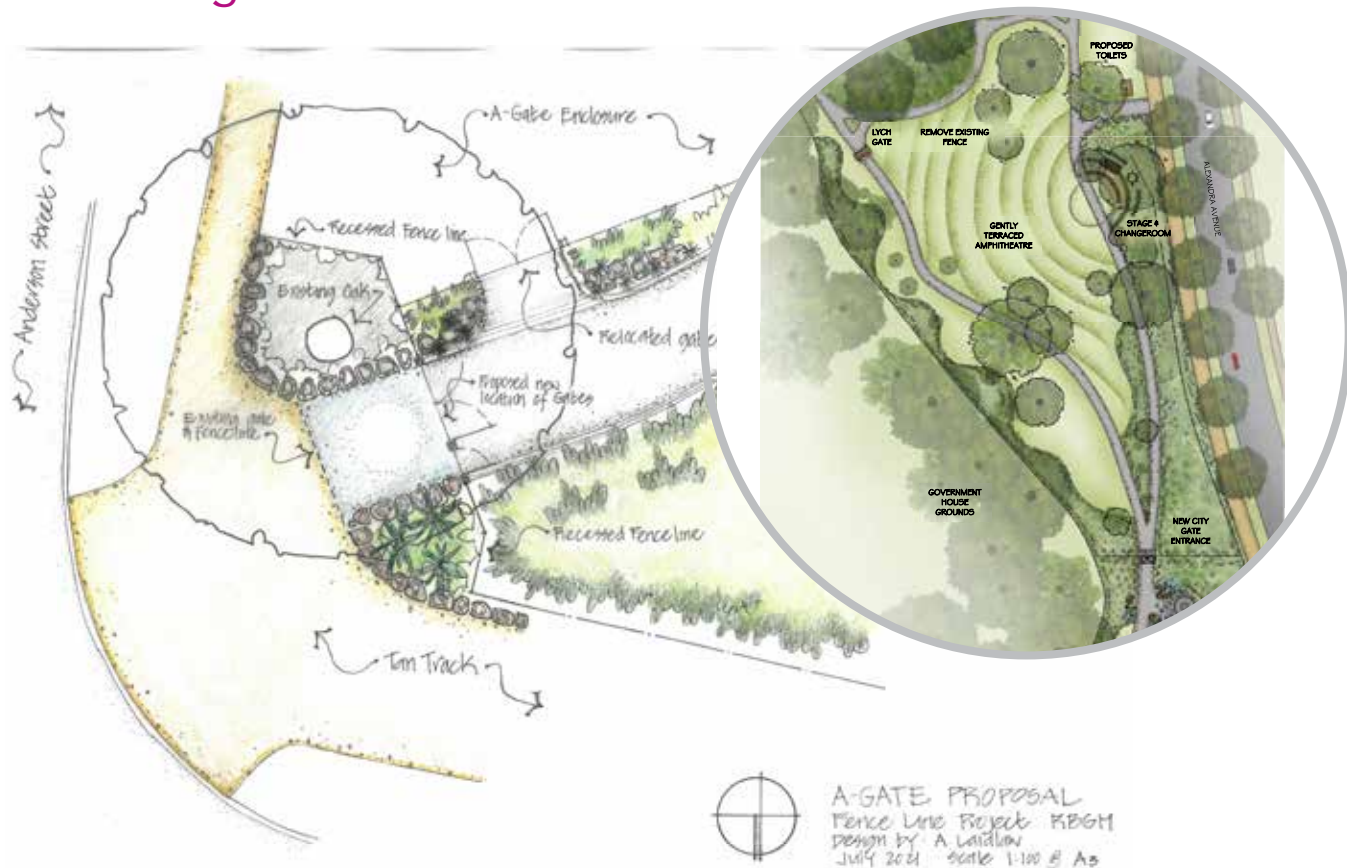
skills that have been learnt through the Growing Friends are now used to great effect in other gardens.

'For me', says Sandi, 'The Friends' Growing group has become an important social network, a place for continuous learning and fun. It is a way of keeping physically and mentally active yet sharing experiences to build important friendships'.

When asked to name a favourite plant, the reply was 'it's like asking about your favourite child!'

So we settled on the yellow Clivia, one of the plants that Sandi has been caring for at the Gardens for many years now! This was one of the first plants she looked after with Growing Friends.

Diana Barrie
Convener, Volunteers



Funding supplementation for Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

By now, you may be aware the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria have received an additional one-off funding of \$8.52 million from the State Government to support the delivery of the Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens master plans.

The funding will allow us to carry out critical asset maintenance and repairs identified through the Melbourne Gardens and Cranbourne Gardens Master Plans. Some of the projects to be delivered are:

- Replacement of the perimeter fence and additional permanent security cameras at Melbourne Gardens for increased security of our precious living collections
- Upgrades to paths and kerbs at Melbourne Gardens for improved visitor amenity
- Further improvements to the entry landscape at Cranbourne Gardens to improve visitor access
- Improvements to learning facilities at Cranbourne Gardens to assist delivery of education programs on-site

- Improvements to wayfinding and interpretation at both sites.

This support is testament to the important role we play for Victoria and the excellence of our work, particularly during the challenges of the last 12 months. It comes in addition to the \$3.3 million received for Cranbourne infrastructure upgrades earlier this year.

The major project at Melbourne Gardens will be replacing much of the perimeter fence for the increased safety and security of our living collections and visitors. We will also implement some of the boundary and gate improvements identified in the Melbourne Gardens Master Plan 2020-2040. The key elements of the project include:

- Replacement of existing fence from D-Gate to A-Gate and A-Gate to H-Gate
- Fence height increased from approx. 1.3 m to 1.8 m
- Realign A-Gate entrance back by 4 m
- Remove boundary fence at Huntingfield Lawn (G-Gate to Lych Gate)
- Gate and fence line moved to

adjacent to Temple of the Winds to create a new "City Gate"

- G-Gate removed; historic infrastructure of Lych Gate retained
- Remove fence along Southern Cross Lawn and Tan Track boundary from Gate Lodge to car park compound
- E-Gate and F-Gate historic infrastructure restored
- Incorporation of afterhours auto gate opening system at three gates. Locations to be confirmed.

We will begin to remove excess vegetation along the fence line from November with fence replacement and gate restoration works beginning from late summer 2022. All heritage and other permits are being sought and a stakeholder communication plan is being rolled-out. This exciting and timely project will not only better protect our magnificent landscapes, plant collections and heritage fabric, but also provide a much-improved entry experience for our 2 million annual visitors.

Chris Cole
Executive Director
Melbourne Gardens



6.5

HUNTINGFIELD LAWN AMPHITHEATRE

Design statement

The existing Huntingfield Lawn will be gently profiled to become an open-air performance space. The existing Gardens boundary fence will be removed creating a seamless connection to the surrounding Domain Parklands. This allows the existing contouring to inform the design, creating a natural amphitheatre suitable for small boutique performances. A new entrance with an arid planting theme will sit adjacent to the Temple of the Winds, reflecting Guilfoyle's original vision.

Major elements

- ➔ Relocate the existing boundary fence and gates and create a new City Gate entrance at the Temple of the Winds, assisting with wayfinding and orientation
- ➔ Trial the use of the site as a performance space
- ➔ Create a gently contoured lawn area and stage by building up existing levels, forming a space for passive use and providing an area suitable for ticketed events

- ➔ Provide screened dressing room and storage for performance
- ➔ Strengthen the Gardens' connection to the Domain and visibility from the Tan Track
- ➔ Improve planting along the Government House boundary to define the space
- ➔ Use clear trunked shade trees in lawn areas, strengthening the existing landscape character

- ➔ Explore the opportunity for a shared toilet facility with the City of Melbourne
- ➔ Explore options for the realignment of the fence in consultation with Heritage Victoria.

Images courtesy of: bottom centre Image courtesy of State Library of Victoria, *Temple of the winds*. Botanical Gardens. Melbourne, bottom left Kim Wilkie

Excerpt from Melbourne Gardens Master Plan 2020- 2040. Note only fence works are being proposed as part of the current project.

Summer Flowering Salvias

The wonderful, cheerful, colourful and at times, almost never-ending flowering of this particular genus in the *Lamiaceae* family, are some of its best virtues! They also provide nectar for birds and insects. By this time of the year, most of the summer flowering varieties are beginning to hit their strides. Many of these are tolerant of full sun and having satisfactorily established, they are also drought tolerant. Most of the summer flowering species are smaller leaved, but there are some bigger leaved varieties that flower through the summer as well.

A couple of my favourite varieties are *Salvia greggii* and *S. microphylla*. These are relatively small shrubby perennials, usually around 80 x 80 cm and come in a lovely variety of colours, ranging from white, pinks, deep red plus softer reds, purple, orange, salmon, apricot and yellow and flower from mid spring right up to early winter. These are best pruned back as you see the new growth coming through in spring. From then on, it's a case of dead-heading to keep the bushes flowering well and some trimming back to shape. If you live in a frosty area, it's best to trim them back after the spring growth starts. This is also a good time to feed and mulch in preparation for a long, hot summer. All these plants mentioned are usually available for purchase at the Growing Friends' Nursery.

Blue is a lovely colour in the garden and there are a number of blue flowering, sun loving salvias that do well in Victorian gardens. *Salvia muirii* is another favourite which has a long flowering season. This is a tough shrub of approximately 80 x 80 cm, with small grey-green leaves and pretty blue flowers with a dash of white. It is very drought tolerant, originating in South Africa and basically only needs a light prune to help shape it. Another lovely blue-mauve flowered salvia is *S. fruticosa* 'Greek Skies' at about 80 x 80 cm, which flowers mainly in mid spring, with sporadic flowers thereafter and has lovely grey-green, pleasantly aromatic foliage.

Of more gentian blue colour are the flowers of *S. corrugata* and *S. 'Costa Rican Blue'*. Both these varieties are taller at around 1.5-2 x 1.5-1.8 m. Both prefer some protection from hot sun and wind, so best planted in morning sun or part shade. Another salvia in the bright blue sphere is *S. mexicana* 'Limelight' with bright lime calyses around the deep blue flowers. It is quite tall, although compact at 1.5 x 1.5 m. Then there are the purples, represented here by *S. 'Black Knight'*, which is a similar height to the previous salvias and also prefers similar growing conditions.

Quite different from those above is a South American salvia, *S. discolor*, which has beautiful olive-green tops and silvery undersides to the leaves and deep purple/black flowers on sticky green stems. This plant is around 60 x 60 cm and provides an interesting contrast in the garden. It is also a very useful plant in a shady area.

For a more striking colour, you could try *S. chiapensis* with its bright magenta flowers with bright green foliage, which is usually around 60

x 60 cm, although I've seen it at around 1 x 1 m! Another salvia in this colour range that looks good with *S. chiapensis*, is the tall growing *S. sprucei*, around 1.8 x 1.5 m, which usually flowers from late winter into early summer.

For plants that are smaller and look good at the front of garden beds, there are the *S. nemorosa* cultivars which have a basal, clumping growth, 30-50 x 30 cm, producing flower spikes through summer in a variety of blues into purple. When the first flower spikes are finished, cut them back and within a few weeks, new flower spikes appear. These are a tough drought and sun tolerant variety. Another ground cover salvia but with a much bigger coverage (used to great affect around the building to the west of the cafe area at the Gardens), is *S. 'Bee's Bliss'* which has silver-grey, aromatic foliage and mauve-blue flowers from late spring through summer. It has a spread of about 2 m and grows 20 - 50 cm tall and is drought tolerant.

Lucille Strachan
Perennials Section
Growing Friends



Photo: *Salvia chiapensis*
by Wendy Henderson



Photo: *Salvia greggii* 'Yellow'
by Wendy Henderson



Photo: *Salvia* 'Bee's Bliss' by Michael Hare



Photo: *Salvia corrugata* by Anne Day

New drinking fountains

We all know how important water is to a garden and the RBGV Melbourne Gardens are no exception. Over the past 20 years, the Trust Fund has supported many projects involved in the provision of water, usually with plant life in mind. To commemorate the Friends' 20th Anniversary in 2002, we established Water Works, Water Wise, which was seen as a long-term project to assist with the upgrading of irrigation systems in the Gardens. This has led to over \$450,000 being contributed in grants, including \$210,000 towards the Melbourne Gardens' massive Working Wetlands Project.

More recently, we have been involved in helping the Gardens' visitors stay hydrated, while also looking to encourage sustainable practices.

In 2019/2020, the Trust Fund provided a grant of \$36,000 to cover the installation of two new drinking fountains in the Gardens, which come complete with a water bowl for our canine friends. These elegant new units have probably not resonated particularly over the cooler months of the year, but hot summer days are fast approaching and we are sure to see them being put to good use once again. The drinking fountains not only provide the opportunity for visitors to enjoy a welcome drink after a walk through the Gardens, but also enable people to refill their own water bottles. Carrying and refilling a water bottle instead of constantly buying bottled water, is one small way of reducing our own environmental footprint.

Mary Ward

Immediate Past President

All photos by Mary Ward





Celebrating 40 Years



PCC Gardening Group Volunteers by Jill Scown



30th Anniversary of Plant Craft Cottage.
Photographer Unknown



Photo: Growing Friends by Richard Kirsner



Photo: Growing Friends' Autumn Plant Sale 2011
by Richard Kirsner



For the last 175 years, The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne has been a treasured public space for generations of Victorians and tourists with large groups of friends and families gathering on the lawns, individuals relishing moments of solitude on one of the garden seats and flower and bird lovers enjoying its natural wonders.

As the Gardens aged in the last decades of the 20th century some areas needed substantial repair and rejuvenation. In 1981, a group of concerned citizens, (many were active in the Plant Craft Cottage) saw the need to promote and aid the Gardens by increasing community involvement and by providing a fund-raising mechanism met to discuss how to support the Gardens and the National Herbarium. The group hosted an exploratory meeting which attracted some 40 attendees who supported the initial group's proposal for an independent body to support the Gardens. In 1982, The Friends of The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne was formed.

The original group's positive energy and willingness to work hard propelled it forward. In the initial decade, the volunteers established the operational structure of the new organisation. In 1984, the Friends' Council was formed to manage the group. Its Trust Fund was established in 1986 to receive donations towards general and specific projects within the Gardens and the National Herbarium. The Friends became an Incorporated Association in 1987.

Highlights

The Plant Craft Cottage, a centre for plant-related crafts, opened in 1981. The oldest public building in continuous use in Victoria currently houses the Friends Natural Dye, Basketry, Paper and Card Making, Pot Pourri, Knitting, Crochet and Fibre Craft and Cottage Gardening groups. It is home to the Botanic Residency Program established to engage Melbourne-based artists and makers who work with natural materials. The craft groups have conducted many

successful adults and children's workshops.

Its first initiative, The Save the Lake Appeal, was launched in autumn 1982. More than \$200,000 was raised to fund the draining and de-silting of the Ornamental Lake to remove a virulent water lily.

The first newsletter was produced in July 1982 and appeared under the Botanic News masthead in autumn 1985. The first issue of Botanic Magazine was published in 1986 culminating in its eighth and final edition in October 1999.

A Friends' Information Desk was established at the Kiosk in 1983. Volunteers assisted Garden visitors and established the Friends' shop, a profitable shop which was closed in 2000 when retail sales outlets in the Gardens were taken over by the RBG.

The first grant of \$2,500 was given for the purchase of plants and labels for The Herb Garden which opened in 1986.

The Growing Friends group was established, and the first plant sale held in November 1988. These very successful seasonal plants sales have been held twice a year ever since, prompting the establishment of a weekly Friday morning nursery plant sale.

As a result of the Friends laying the foundation for an efficient and resilient organisation, it was well positioned to take advantage of the heightened visibility and importance of the Gardens as people started to move back into the city and with the growth of international and domestic tourism in the final decade of the 20th century.

The organisation's influence expanded as a direct result of its growth in membership and fundraising. In the 1990s, the Growing Friends, the Shop, Friends' events and the Botanical Illustration classes and exhibitions were the four significant income streams which supported critical RBG projects through the Trust Funds.

These fundraising mechanisms were also effective outreach tools with opportunities to encourage those attending plant sales, craft group

gatherings, taking art classes or buying a souvenir in the shop, to become members. Many of these members have become dedicated volunteers within the Gardens.

Friends volunteers have proven that donating their time was as valuable as their financial support as was especially evident in the late 1990s when the RBG required assistance in combating the nearly 30,000 fruit bats that were roosting and causing damage in the Fern Gully. When the RBG needed people to drum up enough noise to prevent the bats from roosting, volunteers could be heard creating a ruckus every morning in the Fern Gully.

The Friends took responsibility for running the monthly workshops when Botanical art classes moved from Burnley Horticultural College to the RBG in 1990. Within a few years, the demand for botanical art classes grew and weekly classes were added to the roster.

The biennial Art of Botanical Illustration (TABI) exhibition which showcases the finest examples of botanical illustration and continues to attract both artists and collectors was first held in 1992.

The Friends Botanical Art Program established the Whirlies, a group of accomplished artists who meet weekly without a tutor to share ideas and support each other. This group has created individual artworks for collative exhibitions over the years. The Whirlies have recently published two botanically illustrated books: "Alphabotanical" in 2018 and "The Acacia Project" in 2020. Sale proceeds benefit projects of the Gardens and Herbarium.

From 1994 to 2002, the Friends ran the Garden Seats program when more than 80 commemorative seats were installed in the Gardens. The RBG took over the program for administrative and maintenance reasons.

The Friends hosted the Annual Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc. in 1997 after playing a major role in establishing the association in the early 1990s. More than 2,000 people

attended the event's workshops and lectures.

A Trust Fund grant was used to redevelop the Perennial Border in 1998 with plants in the old border removed by Gardens staff and packaged by the Growing Friends for sale to eager buyers.

In 1999, the Friends' office moved into Gate Lodge. Grants totaling \$114,500 were given for the renovation of the building and landscaping the surrounding garden.

From 1996 to 2009, an extreme and unprecedented Millennium Drought devastated most of Australia with a destructive (drying out the Ornamental Lake) effect among others on the Gardens. The scarcity of rain motivated the RBGV to address its outdated and inefficient hand and portable sprinklers water systems,

With a sizable trust fund, the Friends were well able to support the RBGV in creating a more sustainable water management program. To celebrate their 20th anniversary, the Friends commenced a long-term initiative 'Water Works Water Wise' to help finance the upgrading and completion of the Gardens' irrigation infrastructure and watering systems. Since its launch, more than \$450,000 has been donated to the RBGV's Working Wetlands project eliminating the need to irrigate the Gardens with municipal water.

The Water Works Water Wise project's initial grants were given for the irrigation of the Theatre Lawn, The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden, the Rare and Threatened Species bed, the misting of the Fern Gully, the automatic irrigation system for the RBG Nursery and the Working Wetlands project.

The Celia Rosser Medal for Botanical Art was introduced in 2002 to commemorate Celia Rosser's significant achievements as a botanical artist.

The Friends' Annual Scholarship Scheme was established in 2007 as part of the Friends' 25th anniversary celebrations. The financial grant enables selected RBGV staff members to further their professional and skills development.



Photo: New Explorer vehicles funded by the Friends' Trust Fund by Beth Quinn



Photo: Working Wetlands Project funded by the Friends' Trust Fund. Photographer unknown



Photo: Friends' Botanical Art Exhibitions by Jill Scown



Photo: Friends' Christmas Party 2013 by Richard Kirsner



Celebrating 40 Years



Friends' Christmas Party at Gardens House by Richard Kirsner

The Helping Hands program operated from 2007-2021 to provide members an opportunity to give 'hands-on' assistance to the Gardens. Volunteers refurbished and maintained the gardens surrounding E Gate Lodge and Eastern Lodge.

In 2007, The Friends received a bequest of approximately \$2.5 million from the estate of the late Helen McLellan. In 2010, a major research grant in honour of Helen McLellan was established, and it provides \$20,000 annually towards a scientific research initiative conducted by or for the benefit of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and the Herbarium.

After benefitting from decades of growth in both scope and scale, the Friends reviewed its internal processes as the organisation forged a path in the new millennium. Through an Operations Committee with representatives from the various Friends groups, it developed a strategy for better communication and coordination between its various internal groups and with the RBGV staff. The Friends' volunteer coordination became more centralised and organised to better utilise the efforts of its very dedicated volunteers.

A 2017 survey of the Friends' membership reaffirmed the Friends'

full commitment to financially supporting the Gardens. Many lauded the FRBGV for its effective means of communication, through the well-regarded publications. They also revealed that they wanted more classes, workshops, talks, and walks so a program of more insider walks and tours for members and the development of a more interactive user-friendly website was embarked on.

\$70,000 was provided towards the redevelopment of the historic Guilfoyle's Volcano which opened in 2010 after the installation of a sustainable irrigation system, an accessible boardwalk, and beds of drought resistant plants.

In 2010, stage two of the Working Wetlands, a project to provide the RBGV both harvested storm and recycled water to replace mains water for irrigation was begun.

The Friends contributed \$300,000 to build the new elevated steel boardwalk in the Fern Gully and \$75,000 to the restoration of the Fern Gully rest house.

In 2017, the Photography Group offering another creative outlet for its members who meet monthly to photograph a particular theme in the Gardens was established. See www.flickr.com/groups/photo_group_frbgm.

The Oral History Project with recorded interviews of some founder members to capture their thoughts and memories of the early years of the organisation commenced in 2017.

The Trust Fund contributed \$50,000 towards the re-design of the Visitor Centre.

Reflecting on the achievements of the past decades, the Friends approached the 2020s with renewed enthusiasm. However, in March 2020 the coronavirus pandemic presented an unprecedented challenge with a long period of Covid-19 restrictions impacting on the Friends and the Gardens. For most of 2020 and 2021, volunteers were unable to maintain or provide minimal care of the plants in the Growing Friends nursery and the gardens of the Plant Craft Cottage. All in-person meetings, classes, workshops, tours, guided walks and the popular plant sales were canceled.

Despite these challenges, the Friends were able to stay engaged with its members and the general public by utilising online technology to conduct meetings, art classes, talks and virtual tours. The membership enrollment held steady during 2020 and 2021.

With a Trust Fund grant in access of \$60,000, two new Explorer replacement vehicles were purchased to provide transportation around the Gardens.

In 2020, with a Friends' \$200,000 grant, the RBGV opened the Sensory Garden, the final element of the Fern Gully project.

The Trust Fund provided grants for four smaller scaled projects: purchase and installation of several drinking fountains within the Gardens, restoration of the Nareeb Gates, a new disability change room in the Visitor Centre facility and repair and renovation of the historic Plant Craft Cottage.

The Friends have evolved into a force of over 1800 members and have contributed in access of \$3 million towards the projects of The RBGM and Herbarium.

Beth Quinn
Member, 40th Anniversary
Committee

Self-Drive Garden Tour

Euroa Gardens: The Falls & Lakithi

Tuesday 7 December at 10.30am

Meet at The Falls Garden for Morning tea
 Friends **\$90** Non-members **\$105**
 Bookings essential to receive map/gadens handout.
 Limited to 35 participants.

Come join us on this magical full-day garden tour of two gardens in the surrounds of Euroa. The Falls Garden is nestled within the grazing property's wider Arcadian rural setting, some two hours north of Melbourne. We'll enjoy Morning Tea at this beautiful 3.5-hectare garden that features spectacular mature trees, a private lake, walled vegetable and rose gardens hedged by granite fieldstone walls. There will be plenty of time to explore and appreciate this garden that is based at the foot of a unique natural water fall. We will then drive up the road to Lakithi, another beautiful garden just 20 minutes away, for lunch and garden tour. A large dam around a natural spring and 250m of stone walling and stairs form the bones of this garden that covers more than 3ha in a gently rambling manner. Sweeping lawns and generously proportioned beds, abundant plants. There's so much to enjoy on this tour when both our generous garden owners adore plants and love gardening. We're in for a fabulous day!



Photo: Bruce Creek



Photo: Claire Takacs

Talking at Mueller Hall with Claire Takacs

Thursday 9 December at 5pm

Entry to Mueller Hall via Gate F
 Refreshments offered from 4.30pm
 In-person: Friends **\$20** Non-members **\$30**
 Online: Friends **\$10** Non-members **\$15**
 Bookings essential.

Claire Takacs is an Australian garden and landscape photographer who seeks to be surrounded by beauty always. Her love of and use of light, help to capture the beauty and essence of each space she visits. Claire deeply appreciates good design and planting. Gardens are seen as living works of art and their ephemerality is what compelled her to start documenting them from the moment she photographed her first garden, Cloudehill.



Photo: Sophie Kempton

Workshop with Sophie Kempton

Fresh Christmas Wreath

Saturday 11 December 10am – 12noon

Plant Craft Cottage, enter via Gate H
 Morning tea provided
 Friends **\$125** Non-Members **\$140**
 Bookings essential.
 Limited to 10 participants.

Spend a morning creating a beautiful fresh Christmas wreath to adorn your front door during the festive season. Your tutor Sophie Kempton will guide you through flower selection and placement of the foliage to ensure a glorious fragrant floral decoration for your home. No experience necessary and all equipment and materials provided.



Kids Workshop with Paperlab
Make a Christmas Paper Wreath
Sunday 12 December 10am - 11.30am

Plant Craft Cottage, entry via Gate H
 Morning tea provided
 Friends **\$55** Non-members **\$65**
 Bookings essential.
 Limited to 12 participants.

Come create a beautiful Christmas paper wreath with Louise Seymour of Paperlab. All materials will be provided so you can take home a gorgeous wreath to adorn your front door or bedroom wall.



Art Workshop for teens with Sofie Dieu
Native Floral Ink Painting
Thursday 13 January 10am - 12noon

Plant Craft Cottage enter via Gate H
 Morning tea provided
 Friends **\$40** Non-members **\$55**
 Bookings essential.
 Limited to 14 participants.

Sofie Dieu is a Melbourne-based visual artist who currently teaches design at Monash University. Suitable for teens, this workshop will cover techniques for budding artists to create native floral ink paintings in a detailed, yet creative way. A small list of materials will be provided to all registrants in advance.



Kids Workshop with Paperlab
Make a Paper Flower Posy
Friday 14 January 10am - 11.30am

Plant Craft Cottage, entry via Gate H
 Morning tea provided
 Friends **\$55** Non-members **\$65**
 Bookings essential.
 Limited to 12 participants.

Create a beautiful paper flower posy with Louise Seymour of Paperlab. You'll learn how to cut, curl and shape paper and gather your crafted blooms into a beautiful posy. All materials will be provided.



Art Workshop with Sofie Dieu
Native Floral Ink Painting
Thursday 20 January 10am to 4pm

Plant Craft Cottage, entry via Gate H
 Morning tea provided. BYO lunch
 Friends **\$85** Non-members **\$95**
 Bookings essential. Limited to 14 participants.

Suitable for all levels, this workshop focuses on edible Australian native plants of Victoria with medical properties and is ideal for artists and plant lovers interested in approaching floral painting in a detailed, creative way.

Sofie will introduce you to the subtle art of layering, playing with light and darkness as well as texture, to create stunning backgrounds, on which you'll later paint the flowers of your choice.

This workshop also includes tips for composition, archival arts, and how to create in series while remaining creative and avoiding repetitiveness. All materials will be provided.



Photo: City of Melbourne

A Friendly Ramble Around our City of Melbourne Friday 28 January at 10am

Meet on corner of Queen and Lonsdale Streets
Morning tea at own cost
Friends **\$20** Non-members **\$30**
Bookings essential. Limited to 15 participants.

From growing vertical gardens, planting of trees to creating sky parks floating above the streets, our beloved Melbourne is slowly 'greening up'. On this ramble, we'll visit the first of six new parks in the cityscape, an open-air greenspace that allows visitors to enjoy the outdoors and take in the city's skyline in a protected environment. Along the way, we'll explore a green precinct, a few laneways and find a coffee for a morning tea break.



Photo: Armelle Habib

Talking Indoor Gardening with Jason Chongue in conjunction with The Plant Society*

Saturday 5 February 10.30am - 12noon

Entry to Mueller Hall via Gate F
Refreshments offered from 10am
Friends and Non-members **\$30** per person
Bookings essential.

Please note: Bookings to be made with The Plant Society using the following link and locating the specific event to be booked: <https://www.theplantsociety.com.au/workshops>
Enquiries - The Plant Society 0439 282 409 and Friends 9650 6398

Join Jason Chongue, architect, interior designer and plant cultivator as he discusses his books 'Plant Society: Create an Indoor Oasis for Your Urban Space' and 'Green: Plants for small spaces, indoors and out', 'a 101 guide on how to care for and decorate your home with indoor plants'.



Photo: Mali Wilson

Insider Walk Celebrating Chinese New Year and our Southern Chinese Collection

Tuesday 1 February at 10am

Meet at Plant Craft Cottage (entry via Gate H)
Refreshments provided
Friends **\$20**
Bookings essential. Limited to 25 participants.

Mali Wilson, our RBGV Guide and fellow Friend, will take us on a walk around the Southern China Collection sited at the northern end of the Gardens to celebrate the Chinese New Year. This traditional festival is celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar with 2022 being a Year of the Tiger. Come explore citrus and fellow plants that have special meaning and importance within Chinese culture. We'll finish the walk with a sharing of traditional celebratory fruits and an iced green tea at Plant Craft Cottage.



Photo: Mary Ward

Talking at Mueller Hall with Irene Kearsy and Mary Ward John Arthur – our first Director

Wednesday 9 February at 2pm

Entry to Mueller Hall via Gate F
In-person: Friends **\$20** Non-members **\$30**
Online: Friends **\$10** Non-members **\$15**
Bookings essential.

In 1839, John Arthur brought his family with him to Melbourne on the first immigration ship, the David Clark, from Scotland. It was a bold move to the fledgling settlement that already included 6,000 settlers. Despite being established only four years earlier, town authorities were already in discussions at that time to identify a potential site for the establishment of a botanic gardens similar to those in Great Britain. Arthur was appointed as the Gardens' first Superintendent, in 1846, working tirelessly to establish the first five acres of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens on the site identified by Charles La Trobe, Superintendent of the district, in 1845.



Photo: Unknown

Talking Plants with Robert Dodson *The shade-loving Hosta*

Friday 11 February at 10am

Mueller Hall, entry via Gate F
Refreshments available 9.30am
Friends **\$20** Non-members **\$30**
Bookings essential.

Despite having a reputation for being difficult to grow and often thought of as a collector's plant only, hostas are the perfect shade garden plants that come in about every shade of green possible and every size to fit into your garden. Unusually, many growers cut the flowers off, preferring the leaves noted for their colour, texture and pattern.



Photo: Kath Dupleix

Insider Walk From Bushland to Botanic Garden

Tuesday 15 February at 10am

Meet at Plant Craft Cottage, entry via Gate H
Refreshments provided from 9.45am
Friends **\$20**
Bookings essential.
Limited to 15 participants.

Mali Wilson, our RBGV Guide and fellow Friend, will take us on a walk around the Gardens to trace the early development of the Gardens from its bush beginnings to the first ornamental plantings. Find out about the vegetation that existed here before the establishment of the Gardens and how it was used by the First Peoples and early settlers.



Photo: Louise Seymour

Workshop with Paperlab *Crafting Paper Peony Blooms*

Sunday 13 February 11am – 1pm

Plant Craft Cottage, entry via Gate H
Morning tea provided
Friends **\$85** Non-members **\$95**
Bookings essential.
Limited to 12 participants.

Louise Seymour of Paperlab is passionate about creating paper artworks including gorgeous big blooms and floral sculptures. Her paper flowers have been created as installations and gifts for corporations, beauty and fashion labels and retail centres across Australia.

You'll learn the craft of creating gorgeous peony blooms, based on the round cup-like petals that surround its yellow stamens. Come make the perhaps perfect Valentine's Day gift! All materials will be provided.



Photo: Lisa Cohen

Talking at Mueller with Adelaide Bragg *Bringing the Outside In*

Wednesday 16 February at 2pm

Entry to Mueller Hall via Gate F
Refreshments from 1.30pm
In-person: Friends **\$20** Non-members **\$30**
Online: Friends **\$10** Non-members **\$15**
Bookings essential.

Our homes are the heartbeat of everything – it's where we share ourselves with family and friends. Our gardens equally so. When designing interiors, the connection between the garden and home is essential to creating a welcoming and relaxed space.



Photo: Coula Panagis

Celebrating the Friends' 40th Anniversary 1982 - 2022

A Gardens Morning Picnic

Sunday 20 February from 10am to 12noon

Hopetoun Lawn

Refreshments provided.

Morning tea box **\$30** or bring your own picnic.

Friends only. Bookings essential.

Join us as we celebrate 40 years of the Friends! With entertainment for all ages adding to the party atmosphere, we will catch up with old friends, exchange reminiscences about the early days of setting our wonderful organisation on the road to success and share pride in what has been achieved.



Photo: Tim Barker

Insider Walk Our Amazing Araucarias

Thursday 24 February at 10am

Meet at Observatory Gate Lodge

Refreshments provided from 9.45am

Friends only **\$20**

Bookings essential. Limited to 25 participants.

Join Mali Wilson to explore the Gardens' fantastic collection of rare and threatened Araucaria. Unique to the southern hemisphere and a living link to our ancient past, these middle Jurassic trees are thought to have been why sauropod dinosaurs had such long necks (giving them the height to snack on the foliage)! Mali will guide us to the many species around the Gardens – a joy to explore these beautiful giants and explain to us why the collection is part of our valuable and beloved Living Collections.



Photo: Mitch Burns

Self-Drive Garden Tour

Garden Tour of Cruden Farm

Tuesday 22 February at 10.15am

Meet at Cruden Farm car park at 10.15am

Gate entry, Garden tour and morning tea box included

Friends **\$60** Non-members **\$75**

Bookings essential to receive map and handout.

Limited to 35 participants.

Head Gardener Mitch Burns will guide us around this extraordinary Langwarrin garden that was the pride and joy of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, gifted to her as a wedding present from her husband Sir Keith Murdoch. You'll have time to wander through the gardens and appreciate the extraordinary efforts of many to ensure this garden remains one of Victoria's finest. A delicious picnic box will be enjoyed under the shade of trees.



Photo: Sophie Kempton

Workshop with Sophie Kempton Beginners' Floristry

Saturday 26 February 10am – 12noon

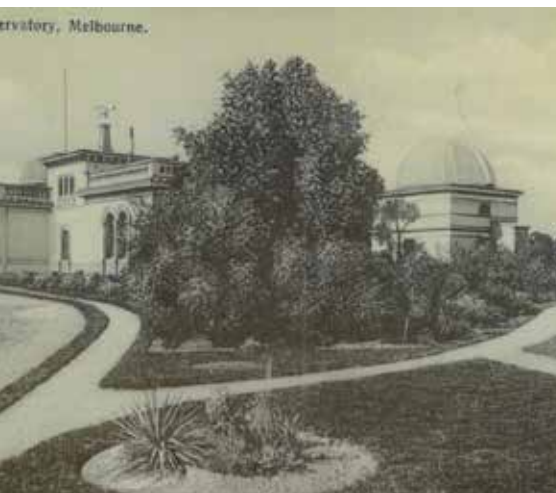
Plant Craft Cottage, entry via Gate H

Morning tea provided

Friends **\$85** Non-Members **\$95**

Bookings essential. Limited to 10 participants.

With your tutor, Sophie Kempton, this workshop explores the joys of floristry and will cover all the basics including flower selection, care and how to choose the right vases and vessels. You will learn the skills to create a beautiful hand tied seasonal posy to take home. No experience is needed and all materials and equipment will be supplied.



Melbourne Observatory
State Library Victoria digital collection



Great Melbourne Telescope under construction
MM059385 Museum Victoria



Mueller's Original Herbarium

Historic Buildings within the Melbourne Gardens

When Charles La Trobe set aside the land for the botanic gardens in 1846, Melbourne was a small pastoral community. Within 10 years we had an established botanic garden and our first few buildings that included two gardener's cottages. By the 1880s Melbourne was one of the richest cities in the world with a large population, the Botanic Gardens was almost fully laid out as we know them, and the Melbourne Observatory was well established. The population of Melbourne demanded that their Botanic Gardens be attractive stroll gardens where entertainment could be enjoyed. The historic buildings thus included gate lodges, orchestra and band pavilions, conservatories, tea rooms, romantic bridges, and quaint rest houses and shelters.

The Melbourne Observatory had been established in 1861 and provided accurate time to the Melbourne citizens, on top of star gazing and observing the transit of Venus across the sun. The main Observatory building had over 20 rooms including a library, an Astronomer's office and 4 transit telescope rooms. The biggest scientific project of the 19th century was to map over 50,000 stars, along with 18 other Observatories around the globe. The Great Melbourne Telescope was the largest steerable telescope in the world for over 3 decades. The Observatory officially closed in 1944.

The first Director Ferdinand von Mueller built and established a Herbarium in the Domain, to house the growing botanical collection. Two further wings were built to house an ever-increasing number of botanical specimens, before a new herbarium was built on the north side of Birdwood Ave, just after the Shrine was completed. This now extended Herbarium houses over 1.5 million botanic specimens.

F Gate Lodge, built by the second Director William Guilfoyle, was both an office and Museum of Economic Botany, housing a display of plant-based products of commercial importance. The amazing,

prefabricated iron sheds at the rear of the lodge, that housed the museum, are now located in the Works Yard, and are used as the current social club and nursery offices. Other wonderful old buildings in the Works Yard area are the 1850s Carpenter's Shop, the Paint or Sign House and lovely old glasshouses.

Another early cottage, that is now the Plant Craft Cottage, was first built in 1851, overlooking the Yarra River before it was straightened to prevent flooding. Mueller lived there for a while, before the Director's residence was built. This historic cottage fosters plant crafts and is surrounded by a pretty garden tended by volunteers.

Gate Lodge, now the Friends' offices, was built in 1902 and housed James Joseph Mannix, Assistant to all three Government Astronomers, a service covering over 47 years.

The Director's Residence is a lovely building, now known as Gardens House, and was lived in by all the Directors from Ferdinand von Mueller up to David Churchill, who retired in 1986. It originally looked down over the Systems Garden and emu enclosure to the lagoon (now ornamental lake). Guilfoyle landscaped the new entrance with sweeping carriageway, lawns and borders.

The Rose Pavilion, Orchestra Pavilion and the Tecoma Pavilion were all used for entertainment including flower shows, musical concerts and charity benefits. The Rose Pavilion still has its original Hoop Pine panelling, while the Tecoma Pavilion has recently been completely rebuilt. The Orchestra Pavilion with its Crimean War Russian Guns is no longer there. Numerous other rest houses and pavilions were dotted around to provide shelter and/or sustenance for the crowds that visited the Botanic Gardens. The William Tell Shelter was based on a small chapel seen in Switzerland by Guilfoyle and built as a tribute to Governor La Trobe's Swiss wife. The Tea House, Tea Pavilion and Bougainvillea Pavilion, symbols of Victorian and Edwardian leisure time, have unfortunately all been demolished.

The many bridges over the lake have changed from Mueller's plain iron bridge to Guilfoyle's rustic style of bridge incorporating tree branches as rustic railings and faux rockwork made from cork. Today's bridges are more utilitarian, designed to cope with the weight of modern vehicles.

Guilfoyle constructed many rockeries, many still in the Gardens, plus a Volcano reservoir designed to hold 1.3 megalitres of water for irrigation in the Gardens. He also designed the Temple of the Winds to celebrate Federation in 1901, the straightening of the Yarra and as a tribute to Charles La Trobe.

Finally, the perimeter fencing, and the various gates are all historic. D Gate came from a now demolished Victorian mansion 'Nareeb' and are a glorious example of Victorian ironwork. F Gate came from the Carlton Gardens and the Lych Gate was built in the 1930s based on Old English Churchyard gates.

Overlooked by the presence of Government House, another Victorian marvel built in the 1870s, our lovely gardens became 'Royal' in the 1950s a couple of years after Queen Elizabeth 2 had visited them. So next time you visit them do look closely at some of the wonderful old buildings that grace our fantastic Royal Botanic Gardens.

Cathy Trinca

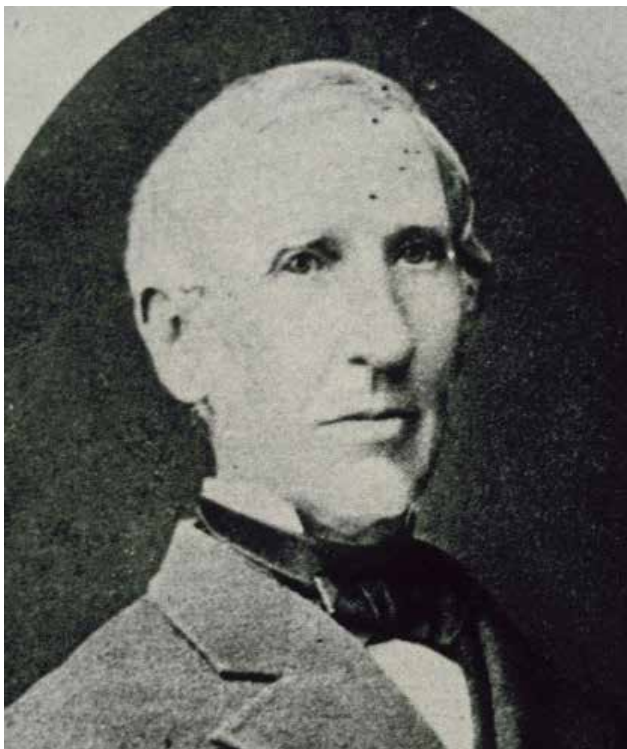


Guilfoyle's Rustic bridge – coloured postcard



Photo credit: Cathy Trinca

Highlights from the State Botanical Collection



A portrait of O.W. Sonder from the State Botanical Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria.

The National Herbarium of Victoria is a mysterious-looking building facing The Tan at the edge of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Concealed behind its 1930s art deco façade lies the State Botanical Collection of Victoria, which includes approximately 1.5 million preserved plants, fungi and algae specimens that are rarely seen by the public.

The algae specimens at the National Herbarium of Victoria are an underexplored part of the collection, with only the type specimens (which are used for naming and describing a species) and Australian material databased. The small amount of fully curated and databased algae material in the Global Collection is especially rich in material collected, described and annotated by notable phycologists (scientists who study algae) Friedrich Kützinger, C.A. Agardh and William Henry Harvey.

Although the Herbarium has in the past had phycologists working actively on the collection, including Doris Sinkora, Tim Entwistle and Michelle Casanova, there is a limited amount of research being undertaken on the algae collection today.

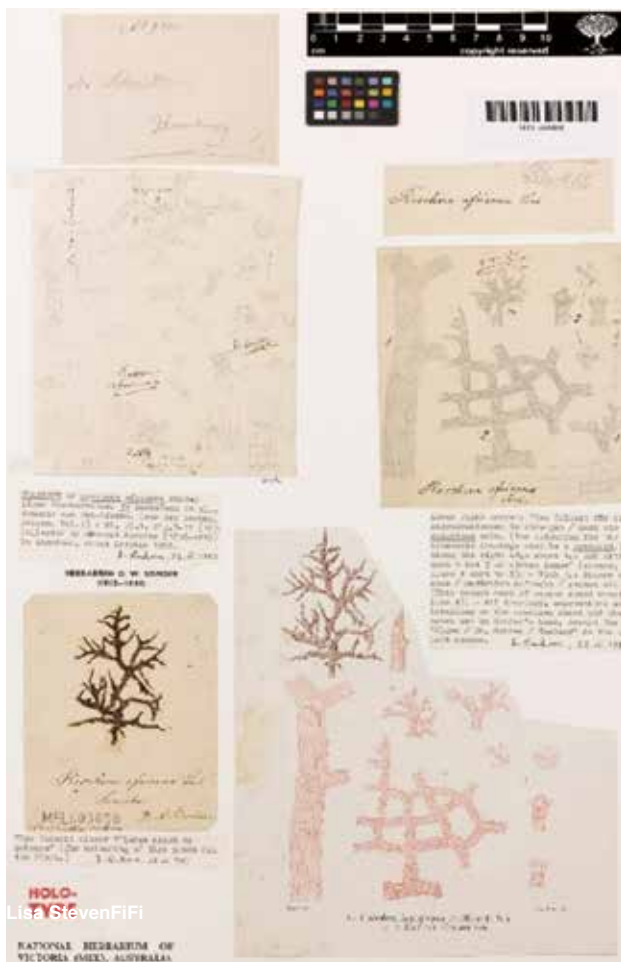
This red algae specimen (Figs 1 & 2) was collected by Dr Albrecht Roscher in Zanzibar. Roscher (1836—1860), from Hamburg, collected seaweeds as part of an expedition to East Africa and the Comoro Islands, mounted by Baron Carl Claus von der Decken between 1858 and 1860. Roscher travelled on to Lake Malawi, where Decken travelled to join him, only to learn on his arrival that Roscher had been attacked and killed in March 1860.

Phycologists often relied on colleagues, amateur botanists or contacts living in different parts of the world to send them material for study. Many collectors lacked the expertise to distinguish between different algae or identify new species, thus sending them on to the experts across the world. This specimen is a great example of the process of illustrating and describing a new genus and species by the gifted botanist and pharmacist Otto Wilhelm Sonder (1812—1881), in 1879; it was named *Roschera africana* in Roscher's honour.

The type (Figs 1 & 2) consists of the original specimen (bottom left) and pencil drawings (top right) of branches, the central axis, network and stichidia under magnification, with notes in German by Sonder that read: 'the colouring for the microscopic drawings must be rose-red'. The coloured plate (bottom right) and original description were then published by Sonder in *Algae Roscherianae*, appearing in volume 3 of Decken's work: *Reisen in Ost-Afrika in den Jahren 1859-1865*.

Sonder was a remarkably well-connected and highly esteemed pharmacist and botanist from Hamburg. He sourced specimens by both purchasing directly from collectors and trading and exchanging with other botanists. His interests were far more than just a simple hobby: he was a prolific taxonomist, with expertise in the South African flora, Ericaceae and, of course, algae.

Over his lifetime Sonder amassed an enormous private collection and his Herbarium, was purchased after much lobbying to the Victorian Government for funds by



Lisa StevenFifi

NATIONAL HERBARIUM OF VICTORIA (MEL), AUSTRALIA

MEL 603058, Holotype of *Roschera africana* Sond. Coll. A. Roscher, Zanzibar.

Highlights from the State Botanical Collection

Ferdinand von Mueller between 1870 and 1883, with the majority being acquired after Sonder's death.

The Sonder Herbarium comprised approx. 250,000–330,000 specimens, including many early collections from southern Africa and southern America; Ericaceae types from C.P. Thunberg (a 'disciple' of Carl Linnaeus); and an extensive collection of algae.

Mueller described Sonder's herbarium as 'the richest of all private botanical collections in existence'. Its presence at the National Herbarium of Victoria not only enriches the State Botanical Collection beyond measure, but – filled with treasures like this specimen – it makes databasing the Global Collection a source of continual discovery and wonder.

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Rita Macheda

**Database Officer
(Foreign Collection Project)**

Collections



Detail of MEL 603058: specimen, original pencil drawings and coloured plates.





Guilfoyle's Volcano 2009 by Anne Peterson



Rose Pavilion by Lynsey Poore



Temple of the Winds by Lynsey Poore

Guilfoyle's Landscaping of the RBG (1873 – 1909)

William Robert Guilfoyle, was the Director of the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne from 1873-1909. He was described as the 'Master of Landscaping' and constructed one of the finest landscaped gardens in the world. Guilfoyle was strongly influenced by the "English landscaping" style of the mid 19th century which in turn was influenced by various writers and philosophers. His map of the Gardens from 1903 is very similar to what we enjoy in the gardens today. Compared to Mueller's maps we can see that Guilfoyle opened up the beds, created grassy slopes, made curved paths and shifted mature trees to vantage points in the Gardens and enlarged lakes to enhance the views.

His creations include the Fern Gully, rockeries, picturesque shelters, the Temple of the Winds, the Ornamental Lake and Nymphaeae Lake and RBGM is quite unique because Guilfoyle created a Gardenesque garden (one full of plants) in the picturesque style (to look like the English landscape) according to Andrew Laidlaw the present RBGV Landscape Architect. The Western Lawn is an example of the picturesque style aimed to make a landscape even more beautiful than nature itself. He was inspired by subtropical plants seen on his visit to the South Seas and used many of them including Flaxes and Cordylines from New Zealand, palms, and interesting foliage plants. In this lawn are palms from the South Seas Islands, Aloes from Africa, a *Ficus macrophylla* from Queensland and Camellias from China.

Another one of his quotes states that 'at every step the visitor finds some new view, something fresh, lively and striking'

Guilfoyle used harmonious sweeping curves in all his landscaping and paths were 16 feet wide to accommodate two promenading couples walking side by side.

Views were important so the concept of mass and void was used extensively, the mass being the gardens beds and the void the lawns as seen here looking from the Eastern

Lawn over the Central Lake to the Princes Lawn.

Several picturesque shelters (Tecoma Pavilion, William Tell Shelter, Fern Tree Gully Shelter and Separation Tree Shelter) were provided for the relaxation of visitors, to hold concerts and other functions. The Rose Shelter was used for garden parties and concerts and The Rose Pavilion, also referred to as the Bandstand, was used for garden parties and concerts.

The Temple of the Winds was dedicated by Guilfoyle to the memory of Governor Charles La Trobe who selected to site for the Gardens. He chose to position it at the highest point in the Gardens.

He used Staghorn Ferns as capitals instead of the Corinthian Acanthus as he was familiar with epiphytic ferns of the Australian tropical and subtropical rain forests so a nationalistic symbol.

The Yarra River used to flow through the Gardens but when the river was straightened to prevent flooding in Richmond it gave him the opportunity to redevelop the remaining swamp into the Ornamental Lake that we see today with its seven islands planted with a wide variety of contrasting foliage and with water tolerant plants that provide nesting places for all the birds inhabiting the Gardens. He used promontories to add and vary the view around the lake. The use of water in the landscape is part of the English landscape tradition.

'At every step the visitor finds some new views'

Nearly at the conclusion of his time as Director, Guilfoyle developed a lake at the southern end of the Garden, the Nymphaea Lake which he filled with colourful waterlilies.

Rustic bridges were also a feature but today they have been replaced by iron structures.

The Fern Gully is another of Guilfoyle's plan so that visitors should be able to pass from the subtropical into the more temperate zone'. He sourced plants from the temperate forest at Macedon, tree ferns from the Black Spur in the Dandenong's and a number from New Zealand. *Ficus macrophylla* trees that he admired from his time in the Tweed River Forest



Memorial for Guilfoyle by Lynsey Poore

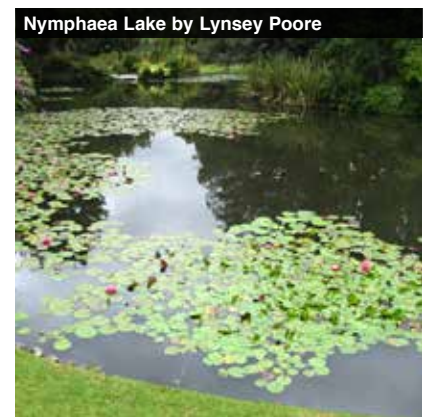
were added to give a subtropical feel. To complete the gully a winding path was laid.

Guilfoyle faced water problems and a drought so in 1873 he had a bluestone reservoir built to solve these problems. He was inspired by tropical landscapes that he had seen in his travels to the South Pacific so he designed and landscaped the reservoir to look like a volcano. The reservoir fell into disrepair when the gardens were connected to the mains water in the 1930s but were re-imagined recently by landscape architect Andrew Laidlaw. He used red scoria paths and low succulents, that often when not watered, turned red to imitate lava flows. Today the volcano serves as a water storage so the Gardens are watered by gravity feed. Today it is one of the highlights of the gardens and an educational one to show home gardeners how to select plants that require very little water.

Guilfoyle retired in 1909 and stated that he did not want a memorial as he said 'the gardens are my

memorial' Outside the Herbarium is a wonderful monument by sculptor Michael Meszaros to commemorate Guilfoyle's immense contribution to the Gardens that we all enjoy today. On the sculpture is a marvellous quote. 'When nature has work to be done she creates a genius to do it'. He is indeed a master of 19th century landscaping, and the gardens today are classed as in one of the five best botanic gardens in the world.

Lynsey Poore
President



Nymphaea Lake by Lynsey Poore



Trillium chloropetalum by Craig Lidgerwood

Botanical Art Program

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne host the largest botanical art program in Australia. Our botanical art classes and workshops are offered to Friends of the Botanic Gardens and are presented by local and internationally recognised tutors.

The Friends offer botanical art classes catering for all skill levels ranging from beginners to advanced students, enabling students to develop a wide range of skills and opportunities to progress to advanced levels. Classes run seven days a week during the school term and include evening and weekend classes thereby providing a suitable time for everyone to participate.

The Friends Botanical Art Program also has a group of accomplished artists who meet weekly to share ideas and support each other without a tutor. This group, the Whirlies, have created individual artworks for collative exhibitions and publications.

Botanic Art Classes

COVID -19 restrictions impacted our ability to hold face-to-face classes during Term 4. Consequently, we offered a comprehensive range

of online classes via Zoom. The classes offered, included an ongoing beginner's class with Amanda Ahmed, beginners/intermediate classes with David Reynolds, intermediate/advanced classes with Dianne Emery and John Pastoriza-Piñol and an advanced class with Dianne Emery. In addition, we offered a Beginners workshop with Kate Nolan.

Botanical Art classes will commence the week beginning 31 January 2022. As previously a variety of classes will be offered for at advanced, intermediate and beginners levels accommodating a range of student needs. Class outlines will be available on the Friends' website in mid-December 2021.

Classes will be delivered via Zoom, over an 8-week term, unless otherwise specified. We will however resume offering a selection of face-to-face classes as soon as possible.

Specialist Art Workshops

Specialist workshops are also offered by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens and are presented by leading Australian artists, including our own tutors, as well as international artists.

We held two specialist workshops during the Term 3/4 holiday period break and a Christmas Calligraphy workshop recently in October.

We are currently creating a workshop program to be delivered during 2022. These workshops will allow students to further develop skills in pure botanical illustration and more contemporary styles. The first workshops for 2022 will be promoted from December 2021 and details will be available via the Friends' website and the Friends' eNews.

Our Tutors

Our tutors, Amanda Ahmed, Dianne Emery, Craig Lidgerwood, Kate Nolan, John Pastoriza-Piñol, and David Reynolds are all very experienced tutors and highly acclaimed botanical artists who exhibit locally and internationally.

We were delighted to welcome Craig Lidgerwood to the Friends Art Program from Term 3 2021.

Craig originally undertook formal study of botanic art with renowned artist Anita Barley. Since then, he has worked as a botanical illustrator and in the travel industry, which gave him the opportunity to travel extensively and to record, photograph and draw plants in their natural habitat.

Craig has illustrated Stephen Ryan's *Dicksonia Rare Plants Manual* (2008) and *Influential Australian Garden People: their stories-* Anne Virginia Vale (2016). He has been regularly exhibiting in Australia since 2010:-at the biennial *The Art of Botanical Illustration* (2010-2018) and *reFraming Nature* (2015 & 2017) held at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and *Botanica* (2012 & 2013) at the Sydney Botanic Gardens. In 2012 Craig exhibited at the Ballarat Art Gallery for a major retrospective: *Capturing Flora: 300 years of Australian Botanical Art*. Internationally Craig has exhibited for the *Société Française d'Illustration Botanique* at the 17th World Rose Conference at the Jardin Botanique, Lyon, 2015, and for *Les Journées des Plantes – 'Jardin gourmand'*, Domaine de Chantilly, Paris in 2016 & 2017. In 2019 Craig's painting of *Trillium chloropetalum* was included in the 16th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Pittsburgh, USA. His solo exhibitions include *An Inquisitive Eye: the Botanical Art of Craig Lidgerwood*, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, Melbourne 2012, *Small Wonders – Woodend Winter Arts Festival* 2015, *Black Anther Gallery*, Woodend, *Natural Obsession: botanic art of Craig Lidgerwood*, Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, Melbourne 2016-2017.

Craig and his artwork have also been represented on ABC TV's *Art Nation*, 'Craig Lidgerwood: My Secret Art Life', 2010, and *Gardening Australia's 30th Anniversary programme*, 2019.

www.craiglidgerwood.com

You can find more information on our art program and our tutors via our web page www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org/friends-art-program/

The Whirlies

For the second year the Whirlies Acacia Exhibition at the RBG Visitors Centre was cancelled due to the ongoing COVID lockdown. The Acacia Project encapsulates a body of botanical illustrations of 23 rare and endangered Acacias growing in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and the publication of a beautifully illustrated book entitled 'The Acacia Project'. The project, completed in early 2020, was a collaborative effort initiated by the Whirlies and with the assistance from staff from the Herbarium and RBGV. This is a particularly important project as climate change and bushfires in recent years have rendered some of the Acacias even more endangered.

While very disappointing this exhibition could not be held as planned these works will be put on display for the public to view at a future date. In the meantime, the Acacia Project book may be bought via the FRBG website, <https://www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org/>. It is highly recommended and provides a beautifully illustrated record of the project.

Following the public exhibition all works will be donated to the State Collection to be held as a permanent record. In addition, all proceeds from sale of the Acacia Project Books will be donated to the Herbarium for future research into the Acacias.



Acacia argyrophillic by Audrey Baillie

THE ART OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

16th Biennial Exhibition

16 September - 3 October 2022



Amanita muscaria by Dianne Emery

The 16th Art of Botanical Illustration, TABI 2022

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne will be holding the sixteenth biennial 'The Art of Botanical Illustration' (TABI) Exhibition between Friday 16th September and Sunday 3rd October 2022.

TABI 2022 will be held as a hybrid exhibition. Art works selected by the selection panel will be displayed in the galleries at Domain House as well as online as a virtual exhibition, similar to the presentation of TABI 2020. This approach will enable a vast audience to view and participate in TABI 2022.

In addition, TABI 2022 will coincide with the 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress which is being hosted by the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, 26th - 30th September 2022. The theme of this Congress is Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change with a particular focus on the response of Botanic

Gardens to climate change, including plant conservation and climate resilience. During the Congress, the RBGV will be showcasing the Arid and Drylands precinct, Fern Gully (including the Sensory Garden) and Working Wetlands and Lake System.

The alignment of TABI 2022 with the Congress provides us with a wonderful opportunity to support our Gardens and present a collection of art works of plants found in these significant areas in the Melbourne Gardens. Application forms and Information on the conditions of entry to TABI 2022 will be available early 2022.

Further information on TABI 2022 is available on the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, TABI website. <https://www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org/friends-art-program/tabi-2022/>

**Sue Foran
Convener**



Luckily some members of the Friends' Photography Group have been able to take photos in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in between and during Melbourne's lockdowns, for example, capturing some of the Gardens' beautiful camellias. In addition, we've used our monthly discussions via Zoom and our extra time at home to practise new photographic techniques, in particular, photographing shadows and reflections, and experimenting with flowers in black and white. A selection of those images is on display here for you to enjoy.

Jane Bennett
Convener



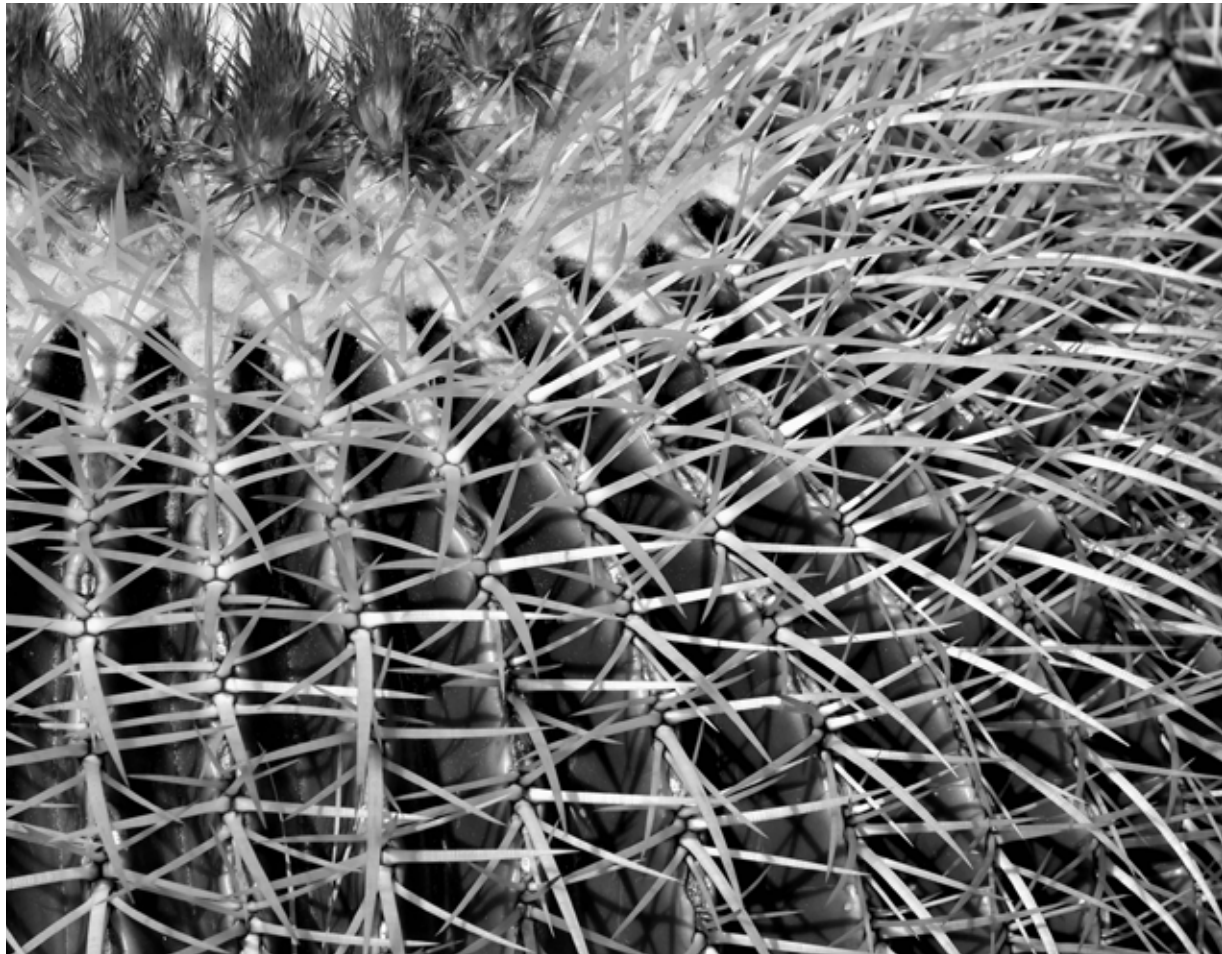


Photo: Richard Kirsner



Photo: Roy Port

December

4	Pre-Loved Book Sale and Plant Sale	
5	Pre-Loved Book Sale	
5	Photography Walk Workshop	
7	Garden Tours: The Falls & Lakithi	p13
9	Talking at Mueller: The Naturalistic Garden with Claire Takacs	p13
11	Workshop: Fresh Christmas Wreath with Sophie Kempton	p13
12	Kids Workshop: Making a Paper Christmas Wreath with Louise Seymour	p13
13	Friends' Christmas Party	

January

13	Kids Workshop: Native Ginger Ink Painting with Sofie Dieu	p14
14	Kids Workshop: Making a Paper Flower Posy with Louise Seymour	p14
20	Art Workshop: Floral Ink Painting with Sofie Dieu	p14
28	Ramble: Around the City of Melbourne	p15

February

1	Walk: Celebrate Chinese New Year with Mali Wilson	p15
5	Workshop: Indoor Plants with Jason Chongue	p15
9	Talking at Mueller: John Arthur: the Gardens' first Director with Irene Kearsey & Mary Ward	p15
11	Talking at Mueller: Shade Loving Hostas with Robert Dodson	p16
13	Workshop: Crafting a Paper Peony with Louise Seymour	p16
15	Walk: From Bushland to Botanic Gardens with Mali Wilson	p16
16	Talking at Mueller: Bringing the Outside In with Adelaide Bragg	p16
20	40th Anniversary Morning Tea	p17
22	Gardens Tour: Cruden Farm	p17
24	Walk: Our Amazing Araucarias with Mali Wilson	p17
26	Workshop: Beginners Floristry with Sophie Kempton	p17



Photo: Tim Barker

2021 Annual General Meeting

The Melbourne Friends' 2021 Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom on Monday 15 November 2021 during which the leadership team for the forthcoming year was introduced to members.

The team comprises:

- Lynsey Poore (President)
- Nicola Rollerson (Vice President)
- Adnan Mansour (Secretary)
- Mark Anderson (Treasurer)
- Mary Ward (Immediate Past President)
- Prof. Tim Entwisle, Director of the RGBV
- Sue Broadbent
- Sue Foran
- Will Jones (Chair of Friends' Trust Fund)
- Meg Miller
- Lisa Steven
- Cathy Trinca