

THE BOTANIC GARDEN

A Newsletter for the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand



Issue 15 - July 2006

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From the Managing Editor

This issue of The Botanic Garden has a theme. A number of readers have indicated that they would like to read about some successful functions and events held in other Botanic Gardens and to learn of ideas for revenue generation. Communications and Marketing Managers from several Botanic Gardens share their experience of these areas, which are of special interest to newsletter readers.

The introduction of a theme for this issue has turned the newsletter on its head, with articles at the front of the issue and news of meetings and conferences at the back.

Ideas for themes for future issues would be welcomed.

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FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS IN BOTANIC GARDENS – GENERATING REVENUE

Managing a sustainable events program – Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney

At the Botanic Gardens Trust in Sydney, a sustainable venue management and events program is one of our core revenue generating strategies. Delivery of this program requires a very close working relationship of our horticultural and venue management teams and navigation of some inevitable competing priorities en route.

To ensure the sustainability of the program, we have a rigorous process of assessing new event applications. All applications are circulated to managers of marketing, public relations, horticulture, commercial and venue management for their assessment and comments against an extensive range of criteria. The objectivity of this process has proved to be important when the Trust's decisions about selection of events have been challenged. There are five key elements in sustainably managing our events program.

We select appropriate premium events for the Sydney estates. The Domain hosts large and often active events such as sporting events, concerts such as Sydney Festival Domain series, large fenced music events (Homebake), outside cinema (Tropfest and OpenAir Cinema) as well as commemorations and celebrations. Seasons sporting sessions are also held on the Domain and we are in the process of directing all personal trainer activity to the Domain from the Gardens.

The Royal Botanic Gardens hosts more constrained activities such as theatre, musical events and weddings. In addition to matching events to our estates, we are very mindful of our immediate stakeholders – residential communities, Sydney hospital, Parliamentarians overlooking the Domain and city workers and commuters.

We carefully evaluate community attitude to alienation of public facilities. The Trust limits the number of fenced events, the blocking off of roads and parking and monitors factors such as noise. We ensure adequate signage provides warning of forthcoming disruption.

Our program provides a range of events for all the community. It includes music for the young to classical and opera; cinema of all periods and a wide range of genre; weddings; corporate, public and private events; various sporting and cultural events; to community celebration or commemorations.

Our team ensures environmental sustainability through event management practices. The Trust requires event producers and managers to operate within clearly articulated guidelines with respect to the physical, historic and horticultural integrity of the sites. Staff are in attendance throughout bump-in and –out as well as during any event. Event producers pay for all damage incurred (turf, fixtures, hard landscaping) as well as services such as water and power.

We maximise the commercial aspects of our venue management. Our pricing differentiates between (fenced, ticketed) commercial events, community and charity events. Elements taken into consideration include physical area required, number of people attending the event, level of infrastructure and impact on the estate, duration including bump-in and –out, event revenue streams and capacity, and the opportunity for the Trust to gain benefits from the event. The Trust considers carefully the commercial and ethical track record of promoters in meeting their financial obligations.

The Trust has also been successful in achieving marketing benefits and opportunities negotiated with event producers. A range of value in kind (VIK) benefits has complemented the Trust's marketing output and become integral to it over the past five years. Community events which pay a substantially reduced fee have been asked to provide VIK. The broad range of marketing benefits achieved has included advertisements in programs, on-screen TVCs, tickets to concerts or films used for Trust sponsors and donors, event signage, making and distributing promotional avant cards or DLs, event website promotion of Trust facilities, and our Executive Director officiating at events.

The only real 'event' that the Botanic Gardens Trust produces itself occurs on New Year's Eve when the City of Sydney hosts fireworks on Sydney Harbour Bridge and along the Harbour. Our Venue Management team runs two ticketed events (600 and 1000 pax); manages two public areas with controlled access (10,000 and 25,000 pax); manages The Lord Mayor's Picnic for disadvantaged children; and manages the Friends of The Gardens picnic area (2,000 pax). Sales of alcohol and food provide a substantial revenue stream to help offset huge costs for security, staffing and infrastructure.

Pauline Markwell
Director Communications and Marketing
Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney

Events and fundraising - the Canberra experience

Each year many of the 450,000 visitors to the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra attend functions and events that are presented as fundraising activities. There are also regular fees and charges for a number of services.

The summer series of music concerts at the Gardens is firmly established on the calendar as one of the most popular and successful public activities in Canberra. Thousands of visitors enjoy a wide range of entertainment by local performers in the beautiful settings of the Eucalypt Lawn and Café Lawn each weekend.

The concerts are presented as gold coin donation events, and monies are collected by a team of volunteers from the Friends' group. Proceeds are also raised from the sale of wine, beer and soft drinks.



Eucalypt lawn, ANBG

As a result, the series is the major annual fundraising activity for the Friends of the ANBG. In recent years the Gardens has received major sponsorship from local utility provider, ActewAGL, to support the annual summer concert series. The Gardens demonstrates enjoyable and responsible use of a valuable community resource, and the concerts provide an excellent opportunity for ActewAGL to promote the water saving campaign to a large local audience.

The Gardens' Education Unit offers a range of activities for primary and secondary school students, on a fee for service basis. In addition, there are regular school holiday activities. The most popular of these is Snakes Alive, an annual display of live reptiles presented in partnership with the ACT Herpetological Association each January.

The Gardens national Plant Photographic Index is an extensive photograph collection that includes images taken by staff on field collecting trips and images contributed by other photographers. Fees are charged for a licence to reproduce photographs from the Index, which is used by a wide range of individuals, agencies and businesses.

Grazing in the Gardens is an annual progressive meal event that was first presented by the Friends' group almost ten years ago, and has been extremely successful. It has provided an excellent opportunity for new and existing Friends to enjoy an informal meal and entertainment in several of the Gardens' prime locations.

The Gardens is one of Canberra's best birdwatching locations, and more than 100 species have been observed and recorded. Since 2004 the Gardens has presented a Breakfast with the Birds program, in conjunction with café proprietor Hudsons in the Gardens. For a very modest charge, visitors are able to enjoy a walk through the Gardens led by an experienced local ornithologist, followed by a delicious breakfast at the café.

A fungi lecture and workshop series has been presented during winter in recent years to an enthusiastic local audience of amateur botanists. There is a small fee associated with this series.

The Australian Native Plant Society (Canberra Region) and the Growing Friends of the ANBG both use the Gardens as the public venue for their annual native plant sales each autumn and spring. These are keenly anticipated and very well attended events that draw large crowds of enthusiastic bargain-minded gardeners. The ANPS cover the cost of car parking space used but are not charged a percentage of sales, while the Growing Friends sales are direct fundraisers for the Friends of the ANBG.

The Friends' Activities Committee coordinate a series of weekly public lectures by guest speakers on a wide range of environmental topics. Entry to the talks is by gold coin donation, and this provides a modest, but steady stream of revenue throughout the year.

A high proportion of the revenue generated by the Gardens comes from three licensed commercial operations:

- Café (Hudsons in the Gardens)
- The Botanical Bookshop
- Car parking fees

In addition, there are fees for wedding ceremonies and wedding photography in the Gardens and the café proprietor is contracted to coordinate these activities.

Hire of indoor and outdoor venues also generates considerable annual revenue. Indoor venues are very popular with corporate government and non-government clients, who appreciate the value of the Gardens setting for workshops and seminars.

The Friends of the ANBG have established a public fund, in response to many requests. The fund is administered by an independent management committee and all donations are used to support Gardens' projects.

The Gardens is also an ideal venue for fundraising events presented by external organisations. In recent years AFFIRM (the Australian Foundation for Mental Health Research) has used the Gardens as the venue for two major fundraising events. On each occasion over 300 guests were seated at a continuous long table on the Eucalypt Lawn and served a lunch prepared by a selection of Canberra's leading restaurants. The first event, in 2004, was described by The Canberra Times as the event of the year.

Paul Ziesing
Communications Officer
Australian National Botanic Gardens

Events and Fundraising in a most cultural botanic garden

A glance back through history reveals that public celebrations and major events have long coexisted with the horticultural objectives of Australia's second oldest botanic garden.

From private to public access

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens has been a site for cultural and recreational activities, in addition to its botanical and horticultural roles, from its very earliest days. This is despite general access being restricted to Wednesday and Saturday afternoons in 1844 to allow for greater use by members of the governing Tasmanian Society and their guests.

In 1845 a new Superintendent, FW Newman, was appointed. He reportedly believed that botanic gardens, while primarily scientific institutions, also needed to offer pleasure and relaxation to the public. Within a short time, reports show that the Gardens resembled "an English park" and by 1848 had been opened, free of charge, to the public, with military band concerts being given on summer afternoons.

Wartime austerity

The Gardens' sandstone Conservatory was completed in 1943 when wartime austerity meant it was unable to be filled with flowering plants. Undaunted, Superintendent Ira Thornicroft oversaw the construction of model gardens and houses from different countries. Ingenuity made up for a lack of materials and the gardens were modelled from real leaves and plant material from around the Gardens, held together with modelling clay. The staff painted the model houses and figures with help from Thornicroft's daughters and the scenes were displayed in the Conservatory's bays for the duration of hostilities, providing welcome cheer for local residents.

Springtime colour

More recent times have witnessed the development of the Tulip Festival which has grown in 20 years from a modest event initiated by the local Dutch community to southern Tasmania's premiere spring celebration. Held each October, the event attracts thousands to its mix of flowers, international food stalls, multicultural music and performances, children's activities, plant sales and demonstrations.



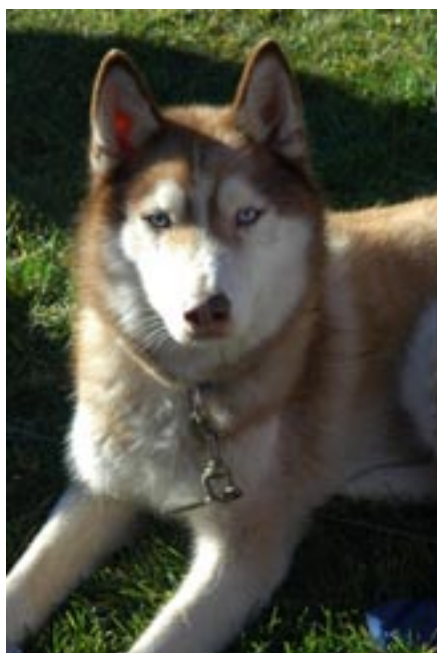
top: Tulip Festival

below: One of the four legged stars of the Huskies picnic

Dog days of winter

The Antarctic Tasmania Midwinter Festival has run since early in the new century and one of its most popular activities is the Huskies' Picnic. Originally held in a Hobart park, the event moved to the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in 2003, accompanied by a significant lift in profile and attendances. Held on the first Sunday after the winter solstice, the event is pegged around a Husky "race" in which a team of huskies tows a vehicle (originally a sled, but now a quad bike) around a circuit of pathways. Other activities include displays and demonstrations of ice carving, photographs, sleds, clothing and other paraphernalia associated with Antarctic exploration and research, as well as music, children's performers and even a circus of performing dogs called the 'Muttley Crew'.

On a crisp, clear midwinter's day, up to 4,500 people roll up for this event. Visitors are encouraged to immerse themselves in the Antarctic theme of the festival and explore the world's only Subantarctic plant house and discover the Gardens' extensive collection of Gondwanan species.

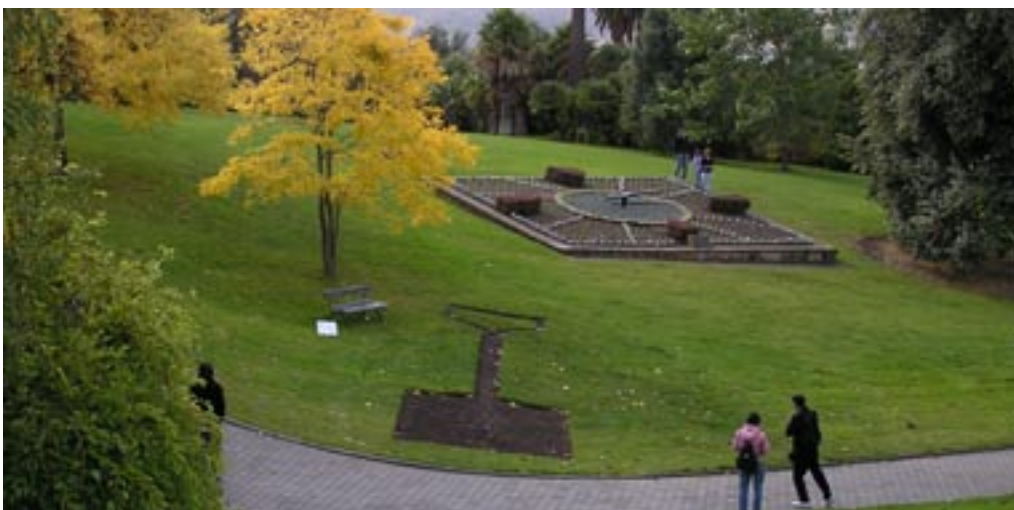


Artful interventions



The Gardens' newest major event is 'Come with Me', a multi-arts exhibition event featuring contemporary art installations in a variety of media around the site. Complementing the fascinating art is an afternoon of musical performance ranging from contemporary jazz through sound scapes to hip-hop and rap. A steady flow of visitors, many of them first-timers at the Gardens, rolled up during the week-long show, which challenged traditional perceptions of botanical gardens in fascinating and frequently amusing ways.

While it was a one-off event, it is hoped similar projects can be developed and presented in future. Sculpture trails have become popular in many outdoor areas in recent years and offer some obvious benefits: displays of artworks tend to have a relatively low impact on garden operations, collections and infrastructure; visitation can be spread over a much longer period than one or two day festivals or events; and such events provide new reasons for people to visit the site. They also generate their own public interest and profile, making them a useful adjunct to regular marketing and promotional activities, particularly in the cooler months.



top: 'Come with me' - works by Justy Phillips
below: 'Come with me' - 'Dig It' by Ben Booth

Ongoing cultural relevance

The Gardens is also home to an active summer theatre program and hosts many community events and performances. On a more intimate scale, the Gardens continue to provide a background to innumerable special family occasions, especially weddings, commitment ceremonies and other life celebrations. Many families choose to commemorate loved ones by sponsoring a tree or installing a seat in the Gardens.

The value and integrity of the Gardens' historic collection is undeniable and staff play an increasingly significant role in the study and conservation of Tasmania's unique flora. It is, however, impossible to imagine the Gardens without people, and people will be attracted to the Gardens in all manner of ways. As it approaches its third century, the search continues for means by which the Gardens can reflect and attract the ever-changing society it serves, in ways that complement its ongoing scientific and horticultural objectives.

Andrew Ross
Marketing and Events Officer
Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

ARTICLES

Staff members from Dunedin Botanic Garden chronicle an important liaison between their Botanic Garden and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The often complex procedures necessary to put such an exercise in train proved worthwhile, with considerable benefits arising for both Botanic Gardens.

Seed collecting with staff from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Dunedin Botanic Garden

In early 2005 Dunedin Botanic Garden received a request from staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to help in providing details on possible seed collecting sites, contacts and local protocols to aid the planning of a seed and herbarium specimen collecting expedition to New Zealand. More detailed contact with the coordinator, Joanne Everson followed, leading to an invitation for staff from Dunedin to accompany the expedition - an offer which was quickly accepted.

Historically, links between Dunedin Botanic Garden and Kew had been strongest in the early 1900s with David Tannock, then Dunedin Botanic Garden Curator, initiating formal contact between the two organizations with exchange of plant material and advice. Scottish born Tannock trained and worked at Kew, first as gardener, then as foreman in the tropical section. He was appointed Curator of Dunedin Botanic Garden in 1903, and remained in contact with Kew throughout his time here. This contact included the shipment of plants in Wardian cases to and from Kew.

Forging a new contact with Kew was well overdue, no official formal expeditions to New Zealand having been made for over 40 years. That, along with newfound enthusiasm of staff and plans for the renovation of Kew's New Zealand plant collections, made now a very good time for such an expedition.

Many hurdles had to be overcome in planning the trip, the itinerary being largely set by Joanne Everson's interest in South Island alpine flora as well as by Kew's international role and commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This required New Zealand's government agency, the Department of Conservation to provide the relevant authority to collect seeds and herbarium specimens from its reserve land, and consultation with the South Island Maori tribe, Ngai Tahu.

Working through large government departments can often be a frustrating exercise. However, requests from Kew and ourselves to Department of Conservation offices were largely well received and managed, despite the logistical aspects arising from the sheer distance between Kew and NZ. It soon became clear that a preliminary visit to NZ by Kew personnel to meet key Department of Conservation staff and check out potential seed collecting sites, was necessary to ensure the success of the expedition. Those controlling the purse at Kew had to be convinced of the need and value of this 'additional' visit, requiring letters from Dunedin Botanic Garden supporting our credentials and benefits of the visit. Referrals from other organizations such as The Allan Herbarium (CHR), housed at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research in Lincoln, which had agreed to assist with storage, packing and shipment of herbarium specimens back to Kew were also required.

In October 2005, Joanne Everson and Annette Dalton arrived in NZ to meet with Department of Conservation staff and visit as many of the collecting sites as possible. While visiting Dunedin Botanic Garden they provided excellent advice and assistance in planning our involvement in the trip. At all times we were engaged as an equal party in the planning, a feat that became all the more impressive when we became aware of the complex internal workings and red tape associated with Kew protocols.

Between returning home to the UK at the end of October until arriving back in New Zealand 3 months later, a great deal of work was needed to refine the trip objectives, and to lodge the collection permits with the Department of Conservation. The permit had to list all of the collection sites and specimens that Kew was hoping to collect. The accuracy of this list was crucial and cannot be underestimated, as when it came time to collect, if a plant was not listed on this permit then it could not be collected. Like Kew, Dunedin Botanic Garden was also required to have its own paperwork and permit in order. Fortunately for us we would have many other opportunities to collect seed if needed in the future, so missing a species off our list was not as crucial.

On February 7th this year a team of 6 Kew staff arrived at Christchurch for the start of a three-week expedition throughout the central and lower South Island. Three experienced botanists skilled at herbarium work, identification and data recording, worked closely with three horticulturists who assisted in identification and collection, and who also took notes from the natural environment to apply to the growing of plants back at Kew.

Dunedin Botanic Garden staff assisted the Kew team during each of the 3 weeks. Tom Myers covered Canterbury, Arthur's Pass, West Coast (Hokitika northwards) and South Otago, Barbara Wheeler accompanied them to the West Coast (Hokitika southwards) and Central Otago and Shirley Stuart to Milford and Southland.

This expedition enabled Kew to provide seed for growing on to enhance the living plant collections at both Kew and its satellite garden at Wakehurst Place, seed for storage at the Millennium Seed Bank, and fresh specimens for the Kew Herbarium.

Dunedin Botanic Garden also achieved all our aims: to increase wild collections of native plants for the plant collections, to increase our knowledge on species range and plant communities and to gain valuable site and collection area details for future plant collection requests and expeditions. It also allowed us the opportunity to assist with fieldwork that we would not normally be engaged in, particularly collecting standards for Kew Herbarium and for the Millennium Seed Bank.

Some difficult issues did arise. The sheer range of natural variation within some species which added to the possibility of hybridisation, surprised the Kew team. Part of the collection permit requirements were that plants had to be identified to species level before a collection could be taken so anxious moments arose when species were found with a high level of variation. Of particular difficulty was the genus *Coprosma* where the track margins would be festooned with plants with fruit ranging in colour from shades of blue, red, white and yellow.

A total of 329 species were listed on Dunedin Botanic Garden's permit with 20 species collected including one collection of cutting material (in comparison, Kew had identified 917 species for their permit and collected about 200 species). Of particular interest to Dunedin was *Dracophyllum* species (*D. oliveri*, *D. townsonii* and *D. traversii*), two forms of *Gunnera dentata*, *Luzuriaga parviflora*, *Pseudopanax linearis*, *Libertia micrantha*, *Carmichaelia arborea* and *Neopaxia sessiliflora*. These plants will be new to our native plant collection or will be used to establish plantings of which we had no surviving wild collected specimens.

The team members were:

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Wakehurst Place

Joanne Everson - Rock Garden Team Leader, Kew

Annette Dalton - Horticultural Amenity Manager, Hardy Display Section, Kew

Mercy Morris - Team Leader of the Southern Hemisphere Beds, Wakehurst Place

Sharon McDonald, Assistant Scientific Officer, Temperate Team, Herbarium, Kew

Sven Landrein - Temperate Botanist, Herbarium, Kew

Dr Richard Brummitt - recently retired and working as much as ever, a long standing botanist at RBG Kew. Author of a landmark text on plant families and genera; co-introducer of a standard system of abbreviating plant name authors

Dunedin Botanic Garden

Tom Myers – Botanical Services Officer

Barbara Wheeler - Collections Supervisor

Shirley Stuart - NZ Native Plant Collection Curator

Article written by Tom Myers and Barbara Wheeler



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7

Foggy Peak view 1
Borland Road rock 2
Gertrude Valley waterfalls 3
Old Man Range - Glynn and Dick 4
Rastus Burn Remarkables 5
Rob Boy Dick negotiating swingbridge 6
Temple Basin – Joanne and Mercy 7

Feature Garden

A spectacular new garden opens in Victoria.

Huge crowds gathered for the opening of the Australian Garden on Sunday 28 May 2006. The \$14.5 million Australian Garden – the first public garden of its scale to open in Victoria for 150 years – was opened by the Premier of Victoria, Steve Bracks.



The Australian Garden is at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, which is approximately 45 minutes south-east of Melbourne, Victoria. The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is a division of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Encompassing 363 hectares, the site includes some of the most important bushland and wetlands in the region. Visitors to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne can enjoy the extensive walking tracks, where they have the opportunity to see native birds and animals, and many diverse plant communities.

Speaking at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, Mr Bracks said the new 11 hectare Garden featured more than 100,000 Australian plants and trees. “The Australian Garden showcases the Australian landscape – with areas representing the desert, dry river beds, arid areas and eucalypts,” Mr Bracks said. “The Garden also features exhibitions showing how people can use Australian plants in their own gardens, Australian sculpture, a water saving garden and the Kid’s Backyard”.

Mr Bracks said the powerful vision for the Australian Garden had been strongly supported by the Victorian Government, through funding of \$9.5 million.

“The Royal Botanic Gardens’ vision for an area that showcases Australian landscapes and highlights the beauty and diversity of Australian flora – has been realised with the creation of this magnificent garden,” Mr Bracks said. “It offers great potential for enjoyment and relaxation, and is based on serious science and conservation, helping to make environmental issues both understandable and thought provoking.”



top left Crowds enjoying the opening
middle Dr Philip Moors, Director, RBGMelbourne, Speaks at the opening
above The premier, the Hon Steve Bracks

Environment Minister John Thwaites said the new Garden was a living lesson in water conservation. "Knowledge developed at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne for conserving water has been applied to the care of the plants growing in the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne," he said. "One of the key ideas underpinning the design of the Australian Garden is that it takes into account the scarcity of water in various Australian landscapes.



"I am also delighted that several of the exhibition gardens will give home gardeners ideas to use in their own gardens, such as choosing low-water use plants, garden design and generally basing a garden on plants suitable for the environment." Launch celebrations included the "Awakening of the Garden," a performance piece by local indigenous artists Richard Cooke and Ian Cuming, a concert by Vika and Linda Bull, children's activities and Volunteer Master Gardener demonstrations.



Designed by leading landscape architects Taylor Cullity Lethlean, with renowned plant designer Paul Thompson, the Australian Garden has already won a number of awards for its design.

The second and final stage of the Garden, covering about fifteen hectares, is planned to commence later in 2006 and take about three years to design and construct. This section will include additional major landscape features such as a lake, more display gardens, artworks, an events space, and extended educational and visitor facilities.

top Nearly 10,000 visitors enjoyed the opening

above Performers from the Bunjil Dance Group

Background information on the Australian Garden

WHAT IS THE DESIGN VISION FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN?

In Australia our lives are shaped by an intricate web of historical, environmental and cultural influences. As a community we are taking an intense interest in what it means to be Australian, what Australia means to us, and how best to deal with the challenges ahead. We are seeking to understand our 'sense of place'.

The Australian Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne sets out to explore aspects of this sense of place that arise from our relationship with our living environment and its impact on our daily lives. Through its landscapes, gardens and artworks, the Australian Garden will offer a greater understanding of our place in Australia's remarkable natural world and how the plants of our island continent have helped develop our Australian identity. In seeking to do this, the Australian Garden is unique, and is distinctively different from other botanic gardens displaying Australian plants.

Building a public garden of such scale and significance is a very rare opportunity. It last happened in Victoria in the 1870s, when William Guilfoyle began creating the magnificent Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. Now, well over a century later, the Australian Garden celebrates the colours, textures, scents, shapes and uses of Australia's diverse plantlife, and opens new opportunities for growing these remarkable plants in our gardens at home.

WHO DESIGNED THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN?

The Australian Garden was designed by leading landscape architects, Taylor Cullity Lethlean, with renowned plant designer Paul Thompson.

In 1997, the design won the Landscape Excellence Award and the Landscape Master Plan Award from the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (Victorian and Tasmanian Chapters). It was also successful in the 1998 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects' national awards, by winning the national Landscape Masterplan award.

"The design of this new botanic garden on a 360 ha site south-east of Melbourne challenges preconceptions of what a botanic garden should be, elevating the notion of floral displays to those of whole ecosystems, underlying soil and water systems manifest and inspiring further exploration." *Jury Citation. AILA 1998 National Award for Masterplanning.*



Crowds filled the Rockpool Waterway

WHO CREATED THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN?

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne created the Australian Garden. For several decades the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne has wanted to create a garden where it could showcase the remarkable flora of this continent. Planning and design began in 1994 and construction of the Australian Garden began in November 2003.

WHO FUNDED THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN?

In 2001/2002 the then Department of Natural Resources and Environment (now Department of Sustainability and Environment) announced funding over three years for the design and construction of the first 11 hectares of the Australian Garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. This followed state government grants commencing in 1996 for preliminary design and construction works. In 2001, the Community Support Fund confirmed funding of \$2.1 million, and Parks Victoria has given monies for signage within the Australian Garden.

Philanthropic support has also been received from: The Colonial Foundation, the John T Reid Charitable Trusts, the R E Ross Trust, the Calvert-Jones Foundation, the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, the Thyne Reid Charitable Trust, The Hugh Williamson Foundation and several individuals including Dame Elisabeth Murdoch AC DBE, the institution's Patron, and Ms Julie Kantor.

Major supporters of the Australian Garden are:

- Victorian Government
- Community Support Fund
- Parks Victoria
- The Colonial Foundation
- John T Reid Charitable Trusts
- The Hugh Williamson Foundation, R E Ross Trust, the Calvert-Jones Foundation, the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, and the Thyne Reid Charitable Trust

Many community groups and generous individuals have also donated to the Australian Garden. The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne is grateful to all our supporters for the vision and commitment to this project and to the valuable voluntary contribution of the Friends, Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR FEATURES OF THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN? WHAT PLANTS WILL I SEE?

Red Sand Garden

The Red Sand Garden is an awe-inspiring invitation to visitors to see the desert landscape and its flora differently. It features vibrant red sand that contrasts with the grey foliage of inner Australia. Lunettes, or crescent-shaped sand dunes, are located on the eastern side of the Red Sand Garden. The lunettes are reminiscent of the massive and extensive sand dune systems that are located within the central arid lands of Australia.

The southern section of the Red Sand Garden blends with artistic expression of flat land river environments. It features the Ephemeral Lake sculpture, designed by Mark Stoner, a ceramic sculpture that explores the interrelationship between water and the Australian landscape.

Planting in this area will include the Austral Bugle, Feather-heads, Kangaroo-paw's, Sturt's Desert Pea, Silver-tails, Grey Cotton heads, Velvet Rush, Mat-rush and other semi-arid zone plants.



The Red Sand Garden

Dry River Bed

The design of the Dry River Bed relates to the ephemeral nature of water within the Australian landscape and the power of water to shape the land into river-beds, on a seasonal basis. The central landscape of Australia is characterised by large river systems that can be located beneath the land surface, as part of the artesian water supply. On the surface, the plants respond by growing in the bars of sand that are shaped into curvilinear forms along the base of the river-bed. These shapes are reflected in the patterns of the Dry River Bed.

Arid Garden

Trees appear for the first time in this garden, used sparingly, yet accurately representing the whole continent. Beneath are the lower species, such as Hedge Salt-bush, Sword-sedge, Fan-flowers, Bluebush, Poverty Bush, and many types of daisies. The seasonal flower displays will bring colour to this desert landscape.

Exhibition Gardens

The five Exhibition Gardens highlight ways that people can use Australian plants in their own gardens. The designers of the five Exhibition Gardens were selected as part of a national design competition. Each garden presents an exploration of a specific theme, through the use of plants which are available to the public in Australian plant nurseries.

The themes of the Exhibition Gardens are:

The diversity of Australian plants

Australia's landscape is diverse, both in look and botanically, and yet historically, European Australians have tended to characterise the land as empty rather than full. This garden aims to dispel this myth. The *Diversity Garden* will be an abstract journey through the 85 bio-regions of Australia.

Landscape designer: **Site Office and Particle**

Water conservation

The *Water Saving Garden* conveys the significance of water and its relationship to plant selection and suitability. The Water Saving Garden will promote and explain issues of water conservation and the wise use of water in home gardens.

The garden is divided into three terraces linked by a number of paths and walkways that will demonstrate three distinct watering regimens. The terraces are the dry terrace, the water-conscious terrace and the water wise terrace.

Landscape designer: **MDG Landscape Architects**

The Future Garden



The *Future Garden* is an exploration of the reality and dilemmas posed by the artificial manipulation of plants to achieve particular commercial or aesthetic effects. This includes horticultural techniques such as grafting, hybridisation, the development of cultivars and, most recently, plant bioengineering, all seeking to alter the naturally occurring form of a plant.

The garden is designed to raise awareness of the issues that as a society we will need to understand in the coming years if we are to understand the implications of these new technologies, at the same time showcasing a variety of commercially available Australian plants that have been developed using these techniques.

Landscape designer: **Site Office**

The Future Garden

The Home Garden

The *Home Garden* seeks to emphasise the design possibilities of Australian plants while taking the visitor on a journey through Australian garden design history.

The garden comprises fragments of different gardens covering a variety of periods, styles and scales. The design will feel familiar to many. They have been adapted from gardens featured in Australian books, magazines and television makeover programs. By substituting the exotic plants used in many period gardens with native plants, we show how it is possible to use native plants in established and new home gardens to achieve many different results. Landscape designer: **Coomes Landscape Architecture & Urban Design**

The children's backyard garden

The *Kids Backyard* is located near the Rockpool Pavilion. Rather than a typical suburban playground, with traditional off-the-shelf 'plastic' playground equipment, this is a space for children's imagination and exploration using organic materials, especially red-gum timbers. All of the elements are derived from natural materials, many recycled or salvaged forestry timbers, and the layout and detailing reinforces an organic theme.

Landscape designer: **Mark McWha Pty Ltd**

Eucalypt Walk

The Eucalypt Walk will explore the diversity of the iconic Australian eucalypts and related plants by leading visitors through a series of distinctive woodland rooms separated by narrow clearings. The garden rooms will display the Stringybark, Bloodwood, Box and Ironbark groupings, and explore our relationship with them from an historical, environmental, scientific, cultural, sensory and commercial perspective.

The garden displays within the Eucalypt Walk will interpret: the role of fire in the environment and our ever-changing relationship to it; the human role in the naming and classification of the eucalypts; household and commercial uses of eucalypt products, and; our changing cultural relationship with eucalypts, as portrayed in visual art over the past two centuries. Each eucalypt room demonstrates the beauty and distinguishing characteristics of the Eucalypt forest. It encourages visitors to learn about the distinguishing features between the main categories of eucalypts.

ART IN THE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN

Ephemeral Lake

The Ephemeral Lake sculpture, created by Mark Stoner and Edwina Kearney, is installed in the Southern Display Garden. The sculpture will be one of the first views that visitors see when they arrive in the Australian Garden. The sculpture is made up of low relief, liquid-shaped ceramic plates, textured and glazed to form a striking and evocative sculpture covering 60 square metres.

The Ephemeral Lake sculpture introduces the story of water in this arid continent, sometimes present and often absent; the move from the dry to the wet season and back again.

Escarpment Wall

The Escarpment Wall Sculpture, designed by Greg Clark, is inspired by iconic red sandstone escarpments, such as those found at Uluru and King's Canyon. The sculpture marks the separation between the Rockpool Waterway and the Red Sand Garden, symbolically holding back the desert from overflowing and enveloping the visitor.

The artwork is nearly one hundred metres long and is made from richly coloured red rusted steel, made up of separate inter-locking components. The cascades and shallows of the Rockpool Waterway flow alongside the wall undercutting its eastern face, as though erosion has slowly eaten away at its underside over time.

Visitor Centre

The Visitor Centre features the Visitor Information service, and ticketing, the Gardens Shop, a café and gallery space, as well as a dramatic stepped and ramped entrance into the Australian Garden. Designed by Kerstin Thompson Architects, the Melbourne-based architectural practice was chosen unanimously by a panel of judges for its innovative and elegant design.

Set among the treetops, the Visitor Centre caters for visitors to both the bush-land experience of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne and the Australian Garden. The Visitor Centre has been designed to follow Ecologically Sustainable Development principles.

The Gardens Shop

The Gardens Shop is the place to shop for botanically-inspired home-wares and gifts.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne has worked with local suppliers and manufacturers to develop an exclusive range of botanically themed products. Products that have been developed include greeting cards, apparel, framed prints, conserves and chutneys, mugs, skin care, stationery, and postcards. Royalties from all products assist the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne to advance the knowledge and enjoyment of plants, and to foster their conservation.

Boonerwurrung Café

The Boonerwurrung Café, with enticing views over the Australian Garden, offers delicious meals, as well as coffee, tea and light snacks. The Café is open from 9am to 5pm.

Function bookings

The Boonerwurrung Café and other areas within the Australian Garden are available for functions.

For bookings & more information:
phone **+61 3 9252 2390**
email **rbg@blakesfeast.com.au**.

Parking

There are nearly 190 spaces available for cars in the Australian Garden car park. There are also eight spaces for coaches.

Entry price

The entry price for adults is AU\$9. Children aged 0 to 15 years old can enter the Australian Garden for free. The concession price is AU\$6.75.

Programs

For a complete list of programs visit www.rbg.vic.gov.au/australian_garden. For bookings phone +61 3 5990 2245.

For all information to help you enjoy your visit, contact:

post The Australian Garden

Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

1000 Ballarto Road

Cranbourne 3977

phone +61 3 5990 2200

fax +61 3 5990 2250

web www.rbg.vic.gov.au/australian_garden or

www.australiangarden.com

Getting there

The best way to travel to the Australian Garden is by car or private coach.

From Melbourne, drive down the Monash Freeway and then turn off at the South Gippsland Highway. Signs will be for Cranbourne and Phillip Island. Drive through the town of Cranbourne, and on the southern side, there are tourism signs pointing to the turn-off for the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne and the Australian Garden.

This trip will take approximately 50 minutes from the Melbourne CBD.

A BUSH LAND EXPERIENCE

Encompassing 363 hectares, the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne includes some of the region's best remnant indigenous vegetation, including heathlands, woodlands and two wetlands of State significance, that have been aged at between 5000 and 8500 years-old.

Visitors to the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne can enjoy the extensive walking tracks, where they have the opportunity to see native birds and animals, and many diverse plant communities. Five different native plant communities are found in the Gardens — sedge wetland, grassy woodland, heathy woodland, wet heathland, and swamp scrub.

The wildflowers start blooming in autumn and the Common Heath (*Epacris impressa*), Victoria's floral emblem, scattered throughout the heathy woodlands, puts on its show of white or pink flowers.

Winter is a treat for birdwatchers as Honeyeaters and Wattlebirds come to feast on the nectar flowing from the Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*), covered with its yellow flower, and the common Correa (*Correa reflexa*), hung with many delicate tubular bells of red or green flowers.

The view from the Trig Point lookout is breathtaking all-year-round but is most rewarding on a clear spring day, with all the brightly coloured pea flowers, surrounded by what appears to be a soft carpet of snow from the flowering tea-trees (*Leptospermum myrsinoides*). The Trig Point lookout also has views to Western Port Bay, Port Phillip Bay, the Dandenong Ranges and as far away as the Strzelecki Ranges and Mount Macedon.

The Stringybark Picnic Area is a welcome respite from the summer heat and a perfect place to enjoy lunch and watch the bandicoots, fairy-wrens and Eastern Yellow Robins amongst the vegetation.

The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne is home to a thriving collection of bird and animal life, including the rare and endangered New Holland Mouse, Spotted Pardalote, New Holland Honeyeater, Brush Bronzewing, Purple Swamphen, Superb Fairy-wren, Swamp Harrier, Masked Lapwing, and the Swamp Skink. In addition to all these species are koalas, possums, wombats, frogs, Tiger Snakes, echidnas, and swamp rats.

Eleanor Bridger
Manager
Marketing and Communications
Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne

PEOPLE

New Director for Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Over a period of twelve years, during his tenure as Director of King's Park and Botanic Garden in Perth and later as CEO of the Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority, Professor Stephen Hopper contributed significantly to the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens (CHABG). Towards the end of his membership of CHABG, the new organisation – BGANZ evolved. Professor Hopper's leadership and contribution over this long period were invaluable. Members of both CHABG and the BGANZ Council congratulate Professor Hopper on his appointment and wish him well in his new, challenging role.

On Friday 19 May, Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, announced the appointment of a new Director, Professor Stephen D. Hopper, currently Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at the University of Western Australia, and former Director of Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Perth. Professor Hopper will take over from Professor Sir Peter Crane in October this year.



Professor Stephen Hopper

Peter Crane is leaving Kew after seven years as Director in order to return to his home in Chicago to become John and Marion Sullivan University Professor at the University of Chicago.

Professor Hopper has an impressive reputation and broad experience in plant science and plant conservation. He is the author of more than 200 publications, including eight books. He is a passionate conservation biologist and has been engaged in practical plant conservation for almost 30 years. For seven years he was Director of King's Park and Botanic Garden in Perth, followed by five years as CEO of the Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority, an Australian Government body run by an independent Board. Professor Hopper, who is married with three children, is already well-known to some of the staff at Kew, and participated in the 2001 Science Audit, which provided an introduction to the breadth of Kew's scientific work.

Lord Selborne, Chairman of Trustees at Kew, said, "We are fortunate to have found in Stephen Hopper an unusual combination of excellence in plant science research and conservation, coupled with in-depth experience of managing a large and complex visitor attraction. We look forward to working with Professor Hopper in the years ahead and especially the planning leading up to Kew's 250th Anniversary celebrations in 2009."

Professor Hopper has a proven track record in attracting funding to the organisations for which he works, and has successfully managed stakeholder relationships through a period of change and development at Kings Park and Botanic Garden. This experience, together with his strong background in science and plant conservation, will be invaluable at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He said, "I am delighted to accept the post at Kew. With its worldwide profile, important national and local presence, and rich diversity of botanical and mycological programmes, Kew is superbly placed to speak for, inspire and demonstrate best practice in plant conservation – the basis of life on earth, and one of the world's greatest challenges."

BGANZ NEWS

Do you have a sister?

Readers of *The Botanic Garden* will be aware that BGCI's 3rd Global Botanic Gardens Congress is to be held in Wuhan, China from 16-20 April, 2007. This Congress is held every three years and is recognized as the primary international event for botanic gardens worldwide. It is the first time a Congress has been held in Asia and will mark the 20th anniversary of BGCI.

Dr Philip Moors, President of BGANZ, has consulted with BGANZ Councillors after receiving an invitation from BGCI for BGANZ to become involved in the Congress. BGCI are keen for BGANZ participation in organising a workshop, developing ideas put forward during the workshop on capacity-building and other forms of botanic gardens assistance led by Mark Richardson at the BGANZ Congress in Hobart last year. Dan Bishop, from the Botanic Gardens Trust Sydney, has expressed interest in organising this workshop.

One suggestion for discussion at the Wuhan meeting is to explore the opportunities for capacity-building with Asia/Pacific gardens by building on the many sister-city relationships already existing between many Australian and New Zealand cities and towns and their twinned Asia/Pacific partners. In order to pursue this suggestion, we need to compile lists of existing sister-city relationships in Asia and the Pacific, with a particular focus on those sister-cities known to have a botanic garden. Please forward information about your own city/town's twinning, and any details you may already have about existing botanic gardens links, to the BGANZ Secretary, Virginia Berger, as soon as possible and certainly before 31 July at vbberger@deh.gov.au

BGANZ- Victoria

On the 27th April in the Gippsland city of Sale, BGANZ Victoria, ran a forum for all interested members as part of its charter to raise awareness of regional botanic gardens across the state.

The meeting attracted over 50 delegates from across Victoria who responded to the opportunity to discuss the important issues of community values in relation to Botanic Gardens, tourism opportunities as well as case studies and recent initiatives in community engagement.

In addition to presentations about tourism and community engagement the Hon. Peter Ryan, leader of the Victorian Nationals spoke passionately of the significant contribution Botanic Gardens make to the health and wellbeing of the local community.

The Friends of the Sale Botanic Gardens presented a range of topics regarding their recent involvement in the redevelopment of the gardens, horticultural therapy opportunities and their current and future roles.

The group lunched in the Sale Botanic Gardens on a perfect autumn day where local historian and former City Mayor Mr. Peter Synan gave a historical account of the formation of the gardens from 1860 to the present. A walk around the gardens with the Shire's Open Space Planner, Mr. Martin Norris, describing significant plantings dating back to Baron Von Mueller days concluded the tour.

Feedback on the forum has been positive with many participants gaining valuable insight into a range of issues affecting their particular garden.

The next BGANZ Victoria regional meeting is planned to be held in November at the Australian Inland Botanic Garden in south-west New South Wales (which we informally claim as part of Victoria!).

For more information about BGANZ Victoria please contact Richard Barley on **03 9252 2300**, or email richard.barley@rbg.vic.gov.au

Tim Rowe
Manager Open Space Wellington Shire Council.

BGANZ New South Wales

“Management of Regional Botanic Gardens – Towards 2050”

BGANZ New South Wales Conference and Workshops

Albury Botanic Gardens 19th – 21st May 2006.

A fantastic conference was held at Albury for the BGANZ New South Wales and BGANZ Victoria state networks, highlighting management opportunities for regional botanic gardens into the future.

45 people attended the various sessions, functions and workshops. All were encouraged to take on both humorous and in-depth investigations of how their Gardens functioned and what is needed to remain sustainable and to develop as we move towards 2050.

Big picture, state and local issues were examined and the presentations and workshops provided an opportunity to investigate matters such as:

- International, national, state and local management agendas
- Volunteer and staff relationships
- Marketing and funding opportunities
- Asset, risk and event management
- Events that work
- Maintenance systems for turf, trees and plant displays
- Education programs
- Benchmarking visitor service quality

A huge vote of thanks must go to the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney staff and Tim Entwisle for their support during the preparation of the conference and the participation in presentations and workshop sessions.

Philip Moors and Richard Barley from the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, enthusiastically headed up the BGANZ Victoria members attending and we appreciate the time taken to assist with presentations.

Albury Botanic Gardens staff and senior gardener, Jason Kimball, had the Gardens sparkling and Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens provided their well renowned feast, cleverly disguised as afternoon tea. Their hospitality was appreciated by all.

Many people have congratulated us on a well run conference and the major reason was the fantastic efforts of our State network co-ordinator, Bernard Proctor from the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney. Bernie's unflustered mastery of all I.T. quirks was essential to the success of the conference. Great job Bernie!

A large contingent from the Eurobodalla Botanic Gardens attended and we all look forward to visiting their region in 2008 for the next BGANZ New South Wales conference. The coastal area around Eurobodalla is a beautiful part of the country. I might just take a few extra days leave when it comes around!!!

Paul Scannell – Albury Botanic Gardens

NEWS FROM BOTANIC GARDENS

Sustainable Irrigation Project at Sale Botanic Gardens.

The Sale Botanic Gardens located in Gippsland Victoria has recently completed the installation of an innovative and sustainable irrigation system for the 146 year old gardens.

The system utilizes stormwater from the adjacent Lake Guthridge to irrigate the 5.5 hectare Botanic Gardens site and adjacent 9 hectares of sports grounds. The project was funded through the Victorian Government's Stormwater & Urban Water Conservation Fund which allocated \$75,000 towards the project. Wellington Shire Council contributed the balance of the \$175,000 project.

The system has the capacity to pump up to 50 litres/second with the system designed to run up to eight lines concurrently. Average water use per irrigation is 70,000L.

Lake Guthridge, from which it draws water, is 25 hectares in area with total estimated water volume of 325 megalitres. Each irrigation has the potential to draw the lake down by 3mm however, the total catchment for the lake is nearly 7 square kilometres meaning that average water flows through precipitation into the lake compensate for any water use for irrigation.

From an environmental perspective the system saves an estimated 45 megalitres of potable water, reduces the drawdown on the regional aquifer and reduces high nutrient stormwater from discharging into the Gippsland Lakes. In addition the new system provides an annual operational saving of \$40,000.

The Gardens, which were gazetted in 1860, and has had in the past design influences from Barron Von Mueller and William Guilfoyle has to date relied on inefficient and costly manual systems. The completion of the new fully automated system is an innovation that will ensure the gardens recent renaissance continues.

Tim Rowe
Manager Open Space
Wellington Shire Council

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AFBG) Committee of Management representatives for 2006/07 are:

President; **Alex Smart, RBG Cranbourne**

Secretary; **Annie McGeachy, Geelong**

Janet Thomson, RBG Melbourne

Amanda King, Warrnambool

Denise Payne, Shepparton

Judith Bailey, Ballarat

Catherine Drew, Hamilton

Warwick Wright, ANBG Canberra, and

Piers Bannatyne, Orange.

While the tyranny of distance provides particular challenges for committee members, with the help of e-mail, we will look forward to an effective 2006/07.

Reading the minutes from the recent BGANZ Victoria, Sale meeting, that included a few local 'Friends', was really encouraging. The seeds of cohesion and clear direction are apparent as is the sense that real improvements in regional botanic gardens in Victoria may no longer be just 'wishful thinking', but can occur.

Please note: the AFBG conference, "Evolution Ecology & Botanic Gardens" will be held September 15th - 17th September at the RBGM Cranbourne. The program will include Professor Rachel Webster, School of Physics, Melbourne University, an opportunity to hear Kevin Taylor, Taylor Cullity & Lethlean and Paul Thompson designers of Cranbourne's extraordinary garden and also a visit to Dame Elizabeth Murdoch's famous garden Cruden Farm at Langwarrin. For program information and contact details see AFBG website: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org. We look forward to seeing you.

Annie McGeachy, Secretary AFBG

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Replant

A new generation of botanical art

Replant is an excursion through the eyes of six different artists into the remarkable world of plants in the tropical north of Australia. This exciting folio of limited edition etchings explores the unique characteristics of species that survive and prosper through the climatic extremes of monsoonal rains, dry weather and wild fires

Gathering at Daly River, 230 kilometres southwest of Darwin in March 2006 the artists explored the scientific, cultural and social aspects of Indigenous plant species with traditional knowledge custodians and ethno botanist Glenn Wightman. Together they distilled ideas and visions in an acutely observed survey of Top End flora and environment. The group then returned to Darwin to the printmaking studio of master printmaker Basil Hall to resolve the work.

Replant reflects the traditional role of women as gatherers of food and holders of knowledge, combined with the rise of printmaking as a significant medium for Indigenous artists.

The Replant Folio is available through:

post **Nomad Art Productions, 3/3 Vickers Street Parap NT**

web www.nomadart.com.au

email nomad@nomadart.com.au

phone **0428 308793**

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) - 6th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens:

“The Nature of Success: Success for Nature”

Hosted by the University of Oxford Botanic Gardens, and in collaboration with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and BGEN (Botanic Gardens Education Network), the congress is taking place in the heart of the magnificent city of **Oxford, UK** from **10-14 September 2006**.

Themes addressed during the congress include:

- Achieving sustainability: ideas and solutions
- Public awareness of plants
- Reflection on practice
- Education for all: working with challenging groups

The Congress will provide a forum for environmental educators from botanic gardens worldwide as well as educators and other staff from plant science institutes, education and conservation organisations, zoos, museums, national parks and nature reserves, to discuss these ideas and issues – particularly pertinent in the light of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

For further information:

email sarah.kneebone@bgci.org

web www.bgci.org/educationcongress

3rd Global Botanic Gardens Congress Wuhan, China, April 16-20, 2007

“Building a sustainable future: the role of botanic gardens”

Organized by Wuhan Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Hubei Provincial Government, Wuhan Municipal Government and Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

The Global Botanic Gardens Congress is held every three years and is recognized as the primary international event for botanic gardens worldwide. This is the first time a Congress has been held in Asia and will mark the 20th anniversary of BGCI.

The importance of botanic gardens in plant conservation, research and public education and awareness about plant diversity is now widely recognized. Discussions in Wuhan will centre around the important theme of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The Congress will provide a global forum for the botanic garden community to share their knowledge, experience, practice and research. An exciting scientific programme is being prepared, which includes presentations by distinguished speakers, symposia on a wide range of topics, participatory workshops, field excursion and garden visits.

In addition, all participants will have the opportunity to visit Wuhan Botanical Garden, which not only has some stunning displays of plants but is a world-class scientific institute. The host city Wuhan is the capital of Hubei Province. It is situated at the confluence of the Yangtze and the Hanshui Rivers in an area of more than 1000 lakes. Wuhan is easily accessible for both international and domestic travel with a well-connected transport system.

For more information:

web <http://www.3gbgc.com/>