

FROM THE PRESIDENT

William Guilfoyle, who created the renowned and greatly loved 19th century landscape of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, retired from his position as Director of the Gardens one hundred years ago, in September 1909. He had been Director for 32 years and during that time, and making full use of his considerable horticultural knowledge and landscaping skills, brought his genius to bear in remodelling the Gardens. Utilising his predecessor Baron Ferdinand von Mueller's diverse plant collection, he moved a large number of semi-mature trees to new positions, established broad sweeping paths and undulating lawns, built the reservoir and rockeries and made the ornamental lake the focal point of his creation. The end result of this considerable remodelling was the very special place of magnificent beauty and botanical significance which millions of people have visited and enjoyed over the years.

The legacy inherited from Guilfoyle is to be treasured and the Friends look forward to continuing their support of the RBG in protecting and nurturing it. We can only do this if we have the support of a large and active membership, and we encourage you if you are not already a Member of the Friends to join us soon and encourage your friends to join us too!

For information about joining the Friends and the volunteer opportunities we have to offer, please visit our website www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org or our office located in Gate Lodge, Birdwood Avenue,

Melbourne or (03) 9650 6398.

At the end of July, Juliana Horsfall stood down as Convener of the Growing Friends, a role which she had undertaken with great enthusiasm and skill for three years. Being Convener of the Growing Friends involves an extremely heavy workload as well as many challenges. Not least of these for Julie was the re-organisation of the Growing Friends' nursery and the replacement of the 'Mouse House' with a splendid new portable building, the 'Grouse House'. Our warm and appreciative thanks go to Julie for all she has done. We're delighted that Michael Hare, a Member of the Growing Friends since March 2007, has taken over as convener and we wish him well.

The nursery is bursting at the seams at the moment with beautiful plants ready for the Spring Sale on 3-4 October.

I look forward to seeing many Members and Friends there!

I also look forward to seeing many Members at the Friends' Annual General Meeting, to be held on Monday 16 November at 8.00pm in Mueller Hall. A highlight of the evening will be the announcement of the winner or winners for 2009 of the Friends' Scholarship for Royal Botanic Gardens Board Staff.

Janet Thomson, President

At left: John Patrick with Friends' Steering Committee member Golda Isaac, and Steering Committee Chairman, Beth Higgs, at his recent talk on the gardens of Japan.



Photo: Cathy Trince

Notes From Gate Lodge

We are grateful to our Members for their continuing support of the various events planned each quarter. The Fit Friends' Rambles and Insiders' Walks are always very popular, but because these are limited-number occasions, they are usually booked out quite quickly and there is often a lengthy waiting list. If you have made a booking and find that you are unable to come, please, out of consideration to fellow Members, be sure to let the Friends' office know as far in advance as possible. This will allow us to contact a person on the waiting list and offer them the place in good time. Of course, we realise that sometimes

emergencies do arise at the last minute, or that someone may suddenly be feeling unwell on the morning of the event. Even so, it is always worth ringing the office (9650 6398) first thing in the morning or contacting the Events mobile number (0407 335 644) just in case someone may be ready and waiting to go. Please remember; it's such a pity to waste a place and have someone else lose the opportunity of taking part.

Do we have your current email address? If you have a new address or if you are now using a different one, please advise the office by email at: friends@rbgmlb.org.au.



Photo: Janet Thomson