



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 5. SPRING, 1994



There are many activities organised for the next couple of months which we are sure will interest you - we do hope you can join us in one or more of them!

1. Visit to "Purrumbete", Camperdown, Sunday 9th October

This should be a great family day. Gates will be open at 12:30pm, entrance \$7.50 which includes afternoon tea, children free. You will be able to wander around the homestead's extensive garden and see the alpacas and their crea (young).

The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Haldane will show us the hall with its fine wood panelling and paintings by Walter Withers depicting the Manifold early pioneering days. The Manifold's house was started in 1842 and the spacious garden runs down to the lake.

Hope you can come to "Purrumbete" on the 9th October and find time also to visit the Old Mill in Camperdown with its restaurant, nursery next door and fine display of horsedrawn vehicles.

If you could ring Marjorie Candy on 62-2960 or Ellen Dwyer on 62-7539 beforehand it would be appreciated, to give us an indication of how many of your friends are likely to come.

2. Lunch with Lisa Stafford at the Mahogany Ship Restaurant, Warrnambool, on Wednesday, 19th October, at 12 noon

We have been lucky to get Lisa Stafford here to talk to us about her ideas on designing gardens for people - Australian style. She is a horticultural consultant and landscape designer who, with Rick and Ross Eckersley, runs the Melbourne-based firm Eco Landscape Design. Their approach is to create a garden which is functional and harmonious in the setting provided. Lisa specializes in the design of country gardens from her home in the Otway Ranges. She is well known for her writing and many of her articles appear in leading garden and design magazines.

You can purchase her book "Living in the Garden - Australian Style" at the lunch, after Lisa has spoken on her ideas of how to create a beautiful, yet purposeful, garden.

The cost of the lunch is \$15 each, for tickets please telephone Nan Dodds 62-2430, or Lorraine Richardson (a.h.) 65-1217.

3. Informal Visit to see Sandra Williams' Garden, Tuesday, 25th October at 10:30am

This is the first of several informal visits that we are planning to Friends' gardens, usually to take place in the morning on a weekday. It will be interesting to see other members' gardens at different times and in different seasons. Sandra has planted a wild-flower meadow in her garden and it should be just coming into flower in mid-Spring.

We do hope Friends will drop by on Tuesday, 25th October to "Riverview Farm", 11 Duirs Street, off Merrivale Drive, Warrnambool. Sandra's tel. no. is 61 - 1216.

4. Lunch in "Bandoola" Garden, Mortlake, Saturday, 19th November with Guest Speaker, Jane Barrett

The "Cancer in Kids" Auxilliary of the Royal Children's Hospital is holding a lunch at "Bandoola" the home of John and Brenda Balderstone, Forster Lane, Mortlake, on Saturday, 19th November, at 12:30pm. Their guest speaker is Jane Barrett retired horticulturist who has had many years of practical gardening experience as well as research overseas in varying climates. Tickets are \$10 each, and are available from: Brenda Balderstone 99 - 2192; Judith Phillips 62 - 3320. There will be a plant stall.

5. Visit to Nerrin Nerrin, Kornong & Wooriwyrite, Friday, 25th November

This will be along the lines of last year's visit - using our own transport. To discuss travelling arrangements, departure time, or anyone wanting a lift, please ring Ellen Dwyer on 62 - 7539.

6. Christmas Drinks in the Gardens, Wednesday, 14th December

This end-of-the-year celebration will be held in the Botanic Gardens at 5:30pm on Wednesday, 14th December. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join us.

Review of Garden Books

This is the first of a series of reviews of your favourite gardening book - or one that has just been published which you feel is outstanding. Please contact Marigold Curtis 67 - 6316 if you have a special book and would like to tell us about it. Sandra Williams read the "Education of a Gardener" by Russell Page and here are her comments.

"THE EDUCATION OF A GARDENER"

BY RUSSELL PAGE

I recently read and enjoyed very much "The Education of a Gardener" by Russell Page. Page was one of the most famous landscape designers in Europe. This book was first published in England in 1962, and the latest edition published this year is available from Collins Book Shop in Warrnambool for \$19.95. It is a compact paperback with 363 pages, so good value.

Russell Page became a landscape designer in 1928 in England, after previously studying painting, and went on to design countless gardens throughout Europe, the Middle-East, and North and South America. He died in 1985.

The book is relevant to gardeners everywhere, because the gardens discussed encompass many different climates, conditions and sites. There are detailed analyses of all the gardens, ranging from the problems apparent in an already existing garden regarding inappropriate design or choice of plants, to specific design principles and garden philosophy. The styles covered by the book vary from small cottage and town gardens to large country houses.

This is not a glossy large format coffee table book, but one for real gardeners. The text is beautifully illustrated with approximately 80 black and white photographs. It is packed with practical advice on all aspects of gardening, from horticultural advice to theoretical principles of good garden design.

The Introduction talks about the influences on Page, while in Part I the chapters cover the following: style, composition, design, sites and themes, etc. Part II covers differing garden styles, gardens in Switzerland, Italy, the South of France and the design of public gardens.

To sum up, the book is a valuable reference tool to be used time and again. It has invaluable advice on design, and Page continually stresses marrying the garden to the site, both in an aesthetic and in a horticultural sense. In his words, "Whatever the terms or the place, however different the physical circumstances, I have always tried to shape gardens each as a harmony, linking people to nature, house to landscape, the plant to its soil. Everything which detracts from the idea of a unity must go."

(Sandra Williams)