



Australian Institute of Horticulture Inc.

'Promoting Horticulture - the Profession of the 21st Century'

Green Thumbs & Rooted Cuttings

AIH NSW e-Newsletter, February 2010

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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2010 and a Happy New Year to all members.

I was pleased to hear that quite a number of industry organisations have supported the Botanic Gardens' proposal for the relocation of the flying fox colony that has done so much damage to the gardens and to trees of great historic significance to Sydney.

It is always pleasing to be able to pass on valuable information particularly where it involves AIH members and their work. In a recent discussion with a member about safety I was able to show him Lisa Ginn's wonderful O H & S documentation. See www.livingrooms.com.au. I have been audited for the last two years for the Strata work I am involved in and Lisa's documentation far exceeds that produced by the Auditors themselves. An exceedingly useful tool to have.

A National Council Meeting has been called for from 12 to 14 February in Melbourne. A broad range of topics will be discussed and if any member has any issues that they want raised, please advise me at presnsw@aih.org.au.

A warm welcome is extended to our new members.....Luke Poulton and Ian Clarke.

The next State Council Meeting is on Thursday 25 February, 7.00pm, Acacia Building, Ryde TAFE.

Richard May
AIH NSW President
presnsw@aih.org.au

AIH NSW CHRISTMAS PARTY

The AIH Christmas get-together was enjoyed at Ballast Point Park at Birchgrove on 28 November. A good number of members and councillors were present to celebrate the end of a great year including our National President and National Councillor, Annette Irish providing a good opportunity to talk about future plans for AIH.



Designed by Landscape Architects, McGregor Coxall, Landscape Solutions were responsible for the landscape construction. Tim Buckle lead a tour of the site for which Landscape Solutions was given the Landscape Contractors' Association award for Commercial Construction of the Year 2009 for their outstanding gabion walls.

Thank you Tim!

Pictured is Tim leading members on a tour of the site

GREEN ROOFS AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE 2009

A report from Tony Curry, AIH NSW Councillor

On the 24th September I attended an intensive and information packed Green Roofs Conference in Melbourne. Green Roofs Australia organised an impressive program featuring local, interstate and international experts in the diverse and rapidly emerging horticultural industry of green roofs and walls (GR&W). The conference was conducted over three days and included the following sessions:

- Day 1: Green roof & walls tour visited Flinders Street Station; Lend Lease Building Foyer Green Wall and Fujitsu Green Wall; Ronstan Green Wall; CH2 Building and Melbourne Central
- Day 2: Conference Program – Morning Plenary Session and Stream 1 Session and Afternoon Stream 2 Sessions
- Day 3: Workshop Sessions – Green roof design and installation; Specifying substrates and plants for Australian Green Roofs and Ground up planning; Transforming 'urban brownfields' in green roof infrastructure.

Sidonie Carpenter, President of Green Roofs Australia Inc., and one of the main drivers of green roof philosophy and practice in Australia, welcomed the conference delegates and officially opened conference program with some personal insights into the future of the GR&W in Australia and overseas.

The conference highlighted the benefits of GR&W as a real and effective response to the challenges facing many of the world's cities and industrial areas as a result of global climate change. The GR&W practices and technologies empower individuals, groups and corporations to take informed and practical action in their area of influence to moderate the effects of a warming planet, as well as reduce their carbon footprints. Retro-fitting and building-in GR&W are proving to be effective and adaptable methods of achieving energy savings, water and air protection as well as enhanced utility of solar equipment and technology for the development of 'healthier' and 'greener' buildings and cities.

GR&W is involves a multidisciplinary approach to greening buildings and the industry is striving to project its message to as wide an audience as possible as planning and

building laws and codes will soon require the integration of GR&W technologies into all 'new' buildings in line with world best practice standards and principles.

The highlights of the conference for me included the:

- *Green roofs from Sheffield UK Session* where Nigel Dunnet, Director of the Green Roof Centre, University of Sheffield, outlined his experiences with the practical aspects of planning, design and planting of green roofs in the UK and Australia. Nigel is a frequent visitor to Australia and he raised a number of salient comments with relation to the use of plants in GR&W, especially in tropical Australia – one of his comments that appealed me was, 'try to work with the climate, not against it'!
- Mark Paul's illustrated talk on *Green Walls – How?* This was an inspirational and spectacular journey through some of the world's most fascinating gardens, landscapes and Greenwall Company projects. Mark's passion for plants and his work, from the formative years of his company up to the present, was vividly portrayed through a virtual kaleidoscope of plant species, habitat shots and panoramas. Mark used one word to explain the driving force behind his work – Plants! Mark uses plants and their physiological adaptations to a diversity of environments to create sustainable, self-supporting GR&W.
- The range and approachability of the Conference Exhibitors were attention catching, relevant and educational. All the industry representatives attending the exhibits were extremely friendly, interested and professionally involved in servicing and promoting the burgeoning GR&W industry. In my eyes the quality of the exhibits further substantiated Sidonie Carpenter's reputation and industry standing.

The speakers, exhibitors and delegates provided a venue for people to share, learn and network in an informed and progressive environment while exploring the opportunities and potential of this new, emerging and innovative industry.

As stated in the Conference Program: 'the mission of Green Roofs Australia is to promote community awareness of the economic, social, inter-cultural and environmental advantages of GR&W practices and technologies via the exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences'. This conference, one of the best I have attended, was a great boon to the achievement of Green Roofs Australia's mission!

THE TALLEST VERTICAL GARDEN

From Gemma Battenbough in www.architectureanddesign.com.au/article/Worlds-tallest-living-wall-takes-root-in-Sydney/507230.aspx



Renowned French botanist, Patrick Blanc's tallest vertical garden is part of a residential development in Camperdown, Sydney, on the site of the old Children's Hospital. The living artwork uses 4,528 native Australian plants from 69 different species that are fed by a grey-water, dripper-irrigation system.

"You can observe many of these species growing wild on maritime cliffs or along the cliffs and rocky slopes in mountainous areas, making this project a kind of 'Botanical Vertical Garden'," Blanc said.

However, the 33-storey north-facing green wall is merely a “practice run” for Blanc’s even bigger installation planned as part of the \$2 billion Central Park development at the former Carlton Brewery site on Broadway in Sydney. In collaboration with Pritzker prize-winning French architect Jean Nouvel, Blanc will also add vegetal wall panels to two residential towers as part of the Frasers Broadway development.

FLYING FOX RELOCATION AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS

At the end of last year, the Botanic Gardens Trust invited public comment on the proposed relocation of a camp of Grey-headed Flying-foxes (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) from the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney with submissions closing on 23 December 2009.



The Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney is a significant cultural and botanical icon, with numerous historic and heritage listed specimens that are of enormous cultural, scientific, horticultural and educational value. It is also home to Grey-headed Flying-foxes which can number more than 22,000 at their seasonal peak. The roosting habit of the flying-foxes is causing serious damage to significant plantings – 18 trees have been lost and more than 300 plants including trees affected. In order to save the botanic collections and the heritage landscape, the Botanic Gardens Trust is proposing to relocate the flying-fox camp to other camps in the Sydney metropolitan area, using methods adapted from the successful relocation of a camp of Grey-headed Flying-foxes from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

The Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) advised that the project needed to be assessed through a Public Environment Report (PER). This was prepared by the Botanic Gardens Trust and was on display from 12 November to 23 December 2009. It can be viewed and downloaded at the Botanic Gardens Trust website <http://www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>

It is expected that the final PER will be submitted to the DEWHA during the latter part of January 2010.

The picture was taken in the RBG by Jaime Plaza

AILA AWARDS

The Australian Institute Landscape Architects NSW congratulated winners of the 2009 Awards at an Awards Presentation Christmas Party. The works of all the winners and all the entrants is showcased in an online version of the 2009 Awards Book at <http://www.aila.org.au/nsw/awards2009/docs/FinalAwardsBook.pdf>

Email Christina Bunbury, State Manager of AILA NSW at nsw@aila.org.au to receive a copy of the book by post.

MEMBER PROFILE – KIM MORRIS by Ally Jackson

The AIH’s National President, Kim Morris, was the most recent target of my member profiling. Having just got off a plane from Singapore at the end of last year, he was swearing off travel ‘til – the next time.



The travel is inevitable, as it forms one of the many arms of Kim's career in horticulture. He is regularly in SE Asia, working with AIH Vice President Annette Irish in facilitating the Certified Practising Horticulturists' Program for Senior Landscape Managers in the private and public sectors in the region. When he is back in Cairns, which he has called home since he was a young man, he designs landscapes and writes for various media outlets, including Your Garden magazine and a regular column in the Cairns Post.

Kim left Sydney when he was 27 and headed to the Berri Co-Op in South Australia. When his sister moved out of Sydney's Carlingford and moved to Cairns, Kim visited, and decided to stay. He used his marketing and sales experience (in the Parisian perfume industry and \$5 insurance policies for single Sydney girls), to manage the bars, clubs and restaurants of the place, while he propagated plants at home in his spare time.

The tropical plants of Queensland's North had him hooked. He needed no glasshouses, and his cuttings grew like wildfire. He met Carol Shipway – and she became his business partner for 10 years. Together they ran Clifton Park Nurseries. For a decade, they grew a million Bougainvilleas for nurseries Australia-wide and overseas. He became involved in the politics of horticulture and the nursery industry. As far North Queensland boasted 41 nurseries, a NGIA was founded in the region and Kim became the president of the branch.

Kim has been training horticulturists for over 20 years – starting with TAFE in 1984/85. More recently he has been guest lecturer at the Urban Planning Symposium Chongqing China and is helping out with an Executive Training Program for senior Chinese landscape officials through the Centre for Urban Greenery and Ecology (CUGE) Singapore. The course will combine the knowledge of horticulture and design - in a context relevant to the culture of the area.

The invitation to train people in the Asian horticulture industry came about as a result of the commissioned Sino Australian Friendship Garden in the tropical southern Chinese city of Zhanjiang, completed in 2007. The 37 ha garden combines the vegetation and characteristics of both China and Australia, incorporating over 200 species of plants native to northern Queensland - making it the largest Australian native garden outside the country. It was designed by Garden City Design Co, a collaboration between Kim and Andrew Prowse.

Considering his reach into the hort industry of our regional neighbours, it seems he's the perfect person to be sitting in the president's chair and touting the benefits of Australian Horticulture.

Pictured is Kim with partner Andrew Prowse, Landscape Architect, under the rings of Friendship at the Sino Australian Friendship Garden.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Medinilla magnifica* **From Tim Jackson**

My favourite plant, this month, because it's flowering, is *Medinilla magnifica*. It sits very happily at the bottom of my north facing stairs in a sandstone garden bed, with good drainage and plenty of compost, doesn't get watered all that frequently but seems to thrive. It gets a couple of hours sun a day and plenty of dappled light.

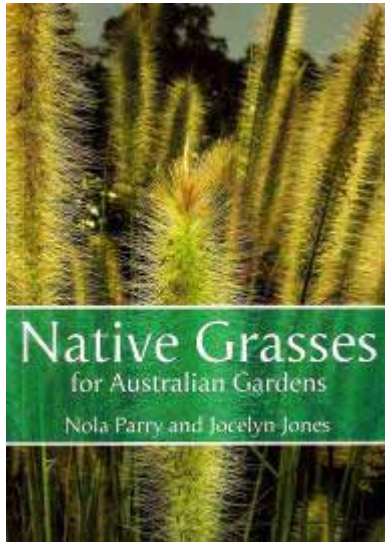
I'm sure I acquired it at one of Peter Nixon's fabulous Designer Grower Network



days many years ago and it just keeps getting better and better. Year round greenery with large leaves and really never has an off day. Lots of other interesting foliage around it to keep the garden looking good in this section.

BOOK REVIEW

***Native Grasses for Australian Gardens* by Nola Parry and Jocelyn Jones, Reed New Holland 2007**



soil-binding ability and bird-attractiveness .

This book could well be titled, Native Grasses and *grass look-alikes* as it covers far more than just members of the family Poaceae. Strappy-leaved plants such as sedges, rushes, irises, lilies, kangaroo paws and flaxes are included, together with many of their hybrids and cultivars. Unlike other books in my native grass library which concentrate on identification of grass species, this book is more concerned with form and function in the garden – the ornamental qualities of grasses and their versatility and adaptability. The form of each plant is described as well as suggestions of how to use it in the garden, what to combine it with, how to care for it and when it flowers. Of particular use is the listing of plants according to purpose and conditions – grasses for pots and containers, borders, accent, mass plantings, wet and dry areas, shaded and sloping areas, frost and salt tolerance, low maintenance, flower and foliage colour, fragrance,

I thoroughly recommend this very useful book to anyone who is designing a garden.

Beth Stokes
AIH NSW Councillor & Newsletter Editor

NET-WORK

- Find out about the benefits of zeolite at www.zeolite.com.au/products/Potting-Mixes.html
- Improving soil structure with bentonite (i.e. kitty litter): www.insinet.net/jasr/2006/949-951.pdf (A tip: after watering bentonite into the soil, *don't walk on it*. It sticks like you know what! Those in the know also recommend using commercially available powdered bentonite rather than kitty litter: although more expensive it blends better with soil and is pH 7.5 compared with kitty litter's pH 9)
- For a modular version of green walls visit: www.gro-wall.com.au/product
- For more help for your soil consider a newly released product, biohumus plus volcanic rock dust: www.biohumus.com.au
- www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au for Australia's tallest native and exotic trees

SNIPPETS...

My World is Green & Growing on Sesame Street

To help support children's innate sense of awe, wonder and curiosity about nature, Season 40 of *Sesame Street* focuses on nature education, through the lens of scientific investigation. New songs, storylines and animations are designed to stimulate a child's knowledge and appreciation for the natural environments around them. Kicking off this

two-year science initiative, "My World is Green & Growing," each episode of *Sesame Street* will feature the nature curriculum in one or more components of the show such as, the street story, a short film, "Murray had a Little Lamb," "Word on the Street" or "Elmo's World." The three main overarching goals of *Sesame Street's* environmental focus are to increase positive attitudes towards nature, deepen children's knowledge about the natural world, and encourage behavior that shows respect and care for the environment. Through these overarching goals, children learn to actively explore and discover the world around them as they become true scientific thinkers and investigators. Michelle Obama will kick-off the 40th anniversary season of the children's TV show *Sesame Street* with a segment encouraging kids to plant gardens and eat healthy food. <http://www.sesameworkshop.org/home>

The Simpson's Change4Life

The UK's Department of Health's healthy eating initiative has signed up as the sponsor of *The Simpsons* on Channel 4. Change4Life animated plasticine characters are featured sitting on a sofa, much like that in the opening sequence of *The Simpsons*. However, instead of settling in to watch TV the family are forced off the sofa and into an exercise activity, or healthy eating regime, via a variety of means.

<http://www.campaignlive.co.uk/>

PLACES TO BE, THINGS TO DO....

Australian National Botanic Gardens Lunchtime Talks

12:30 – 1:30 pm, Thursdays – from Feb to Nov

In the Theaterette

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 4 Feb | Max Bourke | 2010 - The International Year of Biodiversity – philanthropy and what you can do about it |
| 11 Feb | Betty Wood | The Cape Floristic Region of South Africa |
| 18 Feb | Franz Grossbechler & Mark Jones | The Importance of Seed Collecting |
| 25 Feb | David Headon | The Deep Cultural Roots of the ANBG |
| 4 March | Bill Stevens | Blooming Showbiz |
| 11 March | Roger Farrow | Plants of the World - Tibet |

Sogetsu Ikebana Demonstration

Saturday 13 February, 10.30 am – 12.15 pm

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

Of all Japan's traditional arts perhaps the most famed and actively practised is Ikebana, the art of flower arranging. Today, the Sogetsu School of Ikebana is recognised throughout the world as a sculptural form of art using plant materials. Whether a large construction or a single flower, Sogetsu Ikebana continues to create grace and enrich contemporary living and architectural spaces. Share in the ikebana creative process with Joan Perkins, Deputy Director Sogetsu Teachers Association and experience how anyone can

celebrate the wonder of plant life anywhere and any time. Information will be available about the celebration of 50 golden years of Sogetsu-Ikebana in Australia and New Zealand on 17 - 21 May next year. Visit www.sogetsu-ikebana.org.au

\$35, Friends \$25, includes morning tea at 10.30 am

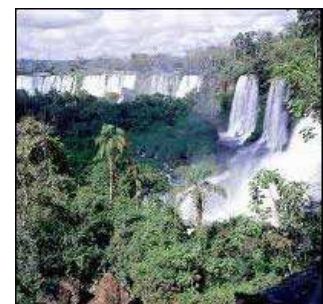
Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or
friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



Argentina-Peru Tour Talk

Monday 15 February, 10.30 am -12 noon

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens



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

\$15, Friends \$10 Includes morning tea at 10.30am

Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Jenny Pollak: 2009 Artist in Residence

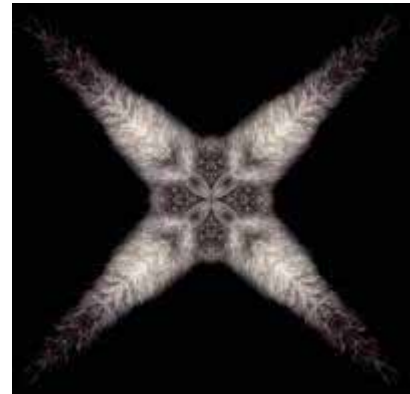
Wednesday 17 February, 10 am – 12.30 pm

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

Jenny Pollak, Royal Botanic Gardens 2009 Artist in Residence, will present a special lecture to Friends describing the creative process that has led to her installation, 21%02, in the Palm House and exhibition in the Red Box Gallery. Jenny will have her visual diaries and photographic prints for people to view, and following the lecture Jenny will take Friends on a guided tour of the Palm House and Red Box Gallery.

\$22, Friends \$15, includes light refreshments at 10.00 am

Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



Botanic Gardens: an International and Local Perspective

Thursday 18 February, 10.30 am – 12 noon

Maiden Theatre, Royal Botanic Gardens

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

Pictured is Mandela's Gold Bird-of-Paradise Strelitzia reginae from Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden

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

Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



Hills District Orchids Open Day

Sunday 21 February, 9 am – 4 pm

183 Windsor Road, Northmead

Park in Mary St or Windermere Ave. Light refreshments available.

For more details go to www.hillsdistrictorchids.com/OpenDays.htm



Sydney people and places: the Cumberland Plain in the early 19th century

Sunday 21 February, 10.30 am – 12 noon

Bowden Centre, Mount Annan Botanic Garden

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

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

Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au

Masterclass: A Sogetsu Ikebana Experience

Saturday 27 February, 9.30 am – 4 pm

Friends' Cottage, Royal Botanic Gardens

Learn the basic upright patterns of Sogetsu Ikebana under the direction of Sandy Marker who will instruct in the design, material characteristics and technical fixing methods. These will include 'Basic Upright Style Moribana' (low flat container) and 'Basic Upright Style Nagarie' (tall container). Through both these styles participants will be able to progress to freestyle arrangement. The day will conclude with a freestyle lesson - 'fun with leaves'.

Containers, kenzans (flower needle holders) and plant material will be supplied and participants will be able to take their flowers home. Details of what to bring will be advised with booking confirmation.

\$140, Members \$120, includes morning tea, lunch and plant material.

Bookings Essential Tel 9231 8182 or friends@rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au



Collectors' Plant Fair

9 am – 4 pm Saturday 17 April, and

9 am – 3 pm Sunday 18 April

Woodgreen, 27 Powells Rd, Bilpin

Featuring 40 specialist growers selling distinctive and hard-to-come-by plants, and books and garden accessories. Inspiring speakers, Daniel Hinkley from the USA and local identity Trisha Dickson. For detailed information visit www.collectorsplantfair.com or phone 02 4567 2026

Landscape Australia Expo

Sydney – Thursday 15 and Friday 16 July

For information contact the Event Manager Mark Walsh on 03 9321 6758 or

mwalsh@etf.com.au

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If you would like to contribute to your newsletter with comments, articles, places-to-be, suggestions – or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list - then please contact the editor: Beth Stokes beth.stokes@bigpond.com The deadline for the March issue is 20 February.