

## BOTANICAL GARDENS

See also minutes of Council Meetings.

The Botanical Gardens was originally one of the main functions of the Royal Society (first called the VDL Society for Horticulture, Botany and the Advancement of Science). The founder of the Society in 1843, the Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Eardley Wilmot, handed over to the Society 14 acres of the Colonial Gardens on the Queens Domain to be developed as Botanic Gardens on the lines of the Botanic Gardens at Kew and promised a grant of £200 a year. It was originally intended that a secretary with scientific knowledge of the leading branches of Natural History should be appointed, at a salary of not less than £200 p.a. with house, and he would be responsible for the Gardens. Indeed the Society hoped to appoint Joseph Hooker, son of William Hooker the botanist. In 1844 the Government grant was raised to £400 p.a. and Dr. G.F. Story was appointed Secretary at £200 p.a. The head gardener, Herbertson, a former Government House Gardener, succeeded in June 1844 by George Grant, was to take instructions from him. From the end of 1845, however, the Government grant was reduced again to £200. The Society then proposed to appoint a 'practical botanist' who could take charge of the Gardens and also act as secretary, and wanted to appoint F.W. Newman, who arrived from Sydney in September 1845 as head gardener, as secretary. The Governor pointed out that such an appointment was 'inconsistent with the objects of the Society' as a 'secretary to a learned and scientific institution' should be a person 'of superior education and scientific and literary acquirements' (minutes Oct. 1845). Accordingly an Honorary Secretary, Rev. John Lillie, was elected to succeed Dr. Story from December 1845 and F.W. Newman was appointed Superintendent of the Gardens at £80 p.a. (raised in 1848 to £120). Newman died in August 1859 and Francis Abbott junior, who had served an apprenticeship under Newman from 1852 and been employed in the Gardens, was appointed Superintendent and remained until his death in 1903.

In 1885 the Gardens and Museum were transferred to the State under a Board of Trustees consisting partly of Government officials and partly of members of the Council of the Royal Society. In 1950 a new Board was established for the Botanical Gardens consisting of 4 Government nominees and representatives of the City Council, Royal Society and University of Tasmania.

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1 Accounts 1845 - 1851

Accounts of sales of plants May - Oct. 1845 and expenses from 1 December 1845 - September 1851. The monthly expense accounts kept by F. W. Newman, superintendent, are detailed, including his own salary (at £80 p.a. or £120 p.a. from 1848), wages and rations for men, named, and the convict probationers, freight on plants sent or received by sea, hay and straw, for horse, attendance at gardens, flower pots, manure, fence round propagating garden, propagating house (1848), canvas for band stand shade, straw for fruit, tobacco for men trenching, '12 turns water'. The accounts are signed as 'settled' each month by F. W. Newman. Occasionally notes of mone. received and paid into bank on account of fruit.

Note. This volume was originally started in March 1845 as record of fruit and plants sold or sent out of the gardens and plants received entered in a small neat hand, but not continued.

(Octavo volume, bound vellum)

21 Accounts Oct. 1851 - Aug. 1859

Expense accounts kept by F. W. Newman. These are entered in great detail and are very informative, including supplies such as garden baskets, gloves, blankets for the men, soft soap for washing trees, pots, candles, meat and groceries for rations for men, tobacco for men trenching, extra labour for trenching old propagating ground, paid man overtime for mowing grass, Mr. Abbott for repairing clock; also wages of men named and convict probationers and after 1858 more free men. Francis Abbott received rations as an apprentice from 1852 and in 1855 received a full wage of £6 per month. He left in May 1856 but returned at intervals later. There are also regular payments for freight on plants sent or received (e.g. Geelong Aug. 1856 Adelaide etc.) Accounts are signed as settled by F. W. Newman. The last entry is dated 27 August. The total for August plus an additional £10 as 20 per cent of sales due to Superintendent was paid to Mrs. Newman on 4 Oct. 1859 (after Newman's death). Remainder of volume blank.

(Quarto volume, half bound leather)

26 Account Book - sales of plants Nov. 1859 - Apr. 1874

'Plants etc. supplied from the Royal Society's Gardens, not paid for at the time of sale.' Records name of buyer and plants, e.g. 'Rev. T. Ewing: cuttings of cloth of gold, geant des batailles, Reine Victoria, yellow persian, Lucinda duplex 2/6.' 'Mrs. Groom cedarus deodora 2/6.'

(account ruled volume, 320mm x 200mm x 25mm, half bound leather)

27 Account Book - sales of plants Jan. 1875 - Oct. 1883

Account of sales of plants recording name of buyer, plants and sums, e.g. 'Mr. C. Crosby 12 assorted roses 12s., forget-me-not 6d., 2 heaths 3s.' 'Mr. F. Salier 12 pkts seeds 2/6'.

(volume 315mm x 150mm x 18mm, quarter bound leather, worn)

9-11 Account vouchers' 1873, 1874, 1882

Receipted bills (see also secretary's papers E.5-8)

(3 folders)

20 Visitors' Book 1844 - 1849

'Royal Society Garden, Regent's Park, Van Dieman's (sic) Land Visitors Book.'

Entries by date in 3 cols. under names of fellows, fellows' orders and names of visitors.

(folio volume., bound calf)

2 Visitors' Book Jan. 1854 - Nov. 1856

'Visitors Book. Public.

(volume 450mm x 150mm x 70mm, bound calf)

23 Visitors' Book Nov. 1856 - Sept. 1859  
Names or signatures of visitors. Note: the last three names were added by the Howell family 20 Nov. - 3 Dec., 1970.  
(volume 405mm x 170mm x 55mm, half bound calf)

24 Visitors' Book June 1872 - Oct. 1874  
Names of visitors. Also note of monthly statistics at end of volume.  
(volume 320mm x 200mm x 25mm, bound vellum)

25 Visitors' Book Jan. 1875 - Sept. 1876  
Names or signatures in pencil.  
(volume 330mm x 210mm x 25mm, half bound leather)

29 Work book and note book 1858 - c1883  
This book was begun as a fair copy 'work book' from January 1858, recording each month a list of plants in flower in the Botanic Gardens, followed by 'General remarks': e.g. January 1858 'This has been an exceedingly dry month, the greater part of the plants round the borders are quite burnt up... plumbs are nearly all ripe, apricots gathered...' August 1858 'We have had a very wet month... There has been scarcely any work done on the borders. The Prisoner men... have been all sent in... the Garden is beginning to put on its spring face... making great headway grafting...' At the end of the volume (turned reverse way) is a 'Calender of operations in the Nursery Garden' referring to 'the garden bought of Mr. Hollinsdale in Proctors' Road.\* This runs from 25 April 1859 until August 1859, with a brief entry for September in a different hand.

This volume is presumably the 'work book' laid before the Royal Society's Council meetings by the Superintendent of the Gardens, together with accounts, numbers of visitors, etc. (see minutes for 1858). Most of the entries appear to have been copied by a clerk, not written by F. W. Newman, the Superintendent, himself. After Newman's death another clerical hand wrote at the front of the volume: 'Mr. Newman died Aug. 23/59 aged 63'. Then the volume appears to have been used as a memoranda book for notes on gardening, mainly taken from the Gardeners' Chronicle or Cottage Gardener, including notes on packing seeds, the effect of the colour of walls on ripening fruit, grafting, steam engine cultivation, new and recommended species of plants, notes of seeds needed, etc. An index of these notes was begun but only continued for a few pages. At the back of the volume are notes on the history of the gardens up to 1858. The earlier entries are in a small, neat, clerical hand, but later entries in a more cursive hand thought to be that of Francis Abbott, junior, who succeeded F. W. Newman as Superintendent and remained until his death in 1903. (account ruled volume, 330mm x 140mm x 30mm, half bound leather)

(The garden bought from Mr. Hollinsdale was near Fitzroy Crescent. See plan RSA/E.12.)

3 Notebook 1884 - 1886  
Notebook, perhaps kept by Francis Abbott, Superintendent, noting times of flowering and remarks month by month, with comparisons of equivalent

seasons in England in the 1870s, and copies of reports of Robert Lindsay of Edinburgh Botanical Gardens.

The book has been reused in 1914 for a draft of a Guide Book to the Gardens by John Wardman, Superintendent, (back of book). (folio notebook)

- 4-8 Secretary's papers 1856 - 1860  
Including correspondence, monthly lists of plants in flower, lists of plants received and despatched, returns of number of visitors, laid by Superintendent before Council. Also account vouchers receipted.  
(4 folders)
- 12 Miscellaneous papers 1857 - 1904, 1928, 1950  
Including report of Gardens Sub-Committee 1858, catalogue of plants 1857, 1865, byelaws 1860, plan of site of gardens near Sandy Bay Rivulet and 'Garden Crescent [Fitzroy Crescent] ND c1859, correspondence 1872-6\*, 1883, 1895-6, 1904, 1928, Botanical Gardens Bill 1950, photograph of Superintendent's House ('1829' although it was actually built in 1845).  
(1 folder)
- 28 Botany of Tasmania N . D.  
Manuscript catalogue of Tasmanian flora, noting natural order, genus, name, authority, habitat, distribution (including some references to mainland Australia), general description.  
The compiler has not been identified.  
(volume 320mm x 200mm x 15mm, half bound leather)
- 13-17 Board of Trustees 1958-59  
Correspondence, copies of minutes and reports kept by the Royal Society's representative on the Board of Trustees.  
(5 folders)
- 19 List of books in the Botanical Gardens Office 1915  
Note on cover 'some returned to RS.  
(paper notebook)
- 22 Queen's Domain: summary of legislation 1889-1963  
Notes by Mrs. D. A. Lewis Royal Society Librarian 1979.  
(2pp)

\* includes correspondence relating to the sale of William Archer's collection of dried Tasmanian plants in London - offered to the Tas. Govt.