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Benalla Botanica Horticultural Conference

26 - 28 October 2007

Conference Theme: **Gardens in a Changing Climate**

Keynote Speaker: Dan Hinkley, the world's most exciting modern day plant hunter

Benalla Botanica - featuring outstanding international and national designers and horticulturalists, builds on the foundation set by the hugely successful inaugural 2004 Conference.

This year's conference, covering innovative garden design, sustainable community gardens, health and well being through gardening, will again offer stimulating interaction for garden lovers and garden professionals from around Australia. There will be wonderful food and wine, garden tours and trade displays on Saturday and Sunday. Friday is the day to view a selection of Benalla's superb gardens, followed by a Cocktail Party at the lakeside Benalla Art Gallery. On Saturday experience stimulating, thought provoking speakers in the morning, afternoon workshops followed by an informal dinner, with time to meet old friends and acquaintances and make new ones. On Sunday look forward to morning and early afternoon presentations and the opportunity to wind down in the afternoon and head for home.

Gardening in a changing climate has thrown us a challenge

Climate change has inspired us to take on a new approach to our gardens, to lose ourselves in an untamed garden, complement our architecture and extend our boundaries of plants and knowledge. We need to connect more with our natural environment and wonderful plant life, to utilise our fabulous palette of natural colours, entwine our garden beds with structural plants and enjoy the beauty of seed pods and waves of grasses left to fade and rustle in the breeze.



To inspire us with a new approach to planting is **Dan Hinkley**. Dan is a native of Michigan, has had a life long interest in plants. In 1987 after completing a Masters in Science and teaching horticulture he and his partner established Heronswood Nursery in Washington State. Heronswood "became a horticultural Mecca for gardeners from all around the world. Those who couldn't visit dreamt of going there" to quote Carol Klein of Gardens Illustrated.

From this base, Dan became a world renowned expert and collector of botanical rarities. Devoted to introducing rare and unusual plants to the gardeners of North America, the nursery grew to become one of the most successful in the world. This endeavour has led Dan to the wilds of China, South & Central America, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Nepal, Vietnam, Taiwan, Tasmania, India and Canada numerous times a year for the past 16 years.

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Dan Hinkley writes frequently for American gardening journals and is highly sought after for speaking engagements. His first book *Winter Ornamentals* was published in 1993 and his second *The Explorers Garden Rare and Unusual Perennials* received the 1999 Book of the Year Award from the American Horticultural Society. He has received numerous awards for his contribution to horticulture in North America and is a regular contributor to *Martha Stewart Living* magazine and television.



Dan and his partner, architect Robert Jones, have moved on from Heronswood. They have now established, on a nearby sun-drenched site overlooking Puget Sound, another wonderful garden called 'Windcliff' which combines American native plants with plants found around the world.

One of Australia's most respected and engaging garden writers/designers - **Michael McCoy** - will mesh the Conference together as MC and a presenter. Michael spent several months in 1991 with Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter in

East Sussex, an experience he describes as profoundly influential. His first book, *Michael McCoy's Garden*, was published to great acclaim and he will release a new book this year.

Some of our presenters include:

Georgina Martyn from **Bold Simplicity** is an exciting Garden Designer known for her contemporary, naturalistic approach to designing spaces, ranging from small city courtyards to coastal and country properties, with an emphasis on foliage and objects d'art. Georgina incorporates organic gardening, Feng Shui principles and play opportunities for children into her work.

Peter Nixon - Peter's award winning Sydney based Paradisus Garden Design company designs and constructs gardens in strict accordance with the people who live there, and what growing conditions the site may offer. Peter is also the founder of the Designer Growers Network which promotes latitudinal planting and the matching of plants to realistic growing conditions.

For more information:

Contact the Convenor Jane Grimwade on (03) 5762 2792 or email grimwade@netc.net.au for information and accommodation bookings and enquiries.

Venue

Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre, 57 Samaria Road, Benalla, Victoria

Benalla Botanica has been made possible through the generous support of Benalla Rural City and Benalla's local community and businesses.

Botanica was the winner of the National Parks & Leisure Australia Innovation and Best Practice Award 2005.

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