

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL

Herald Sun

FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

MARCH 28 - APRIL 1, 2007

Good to grow

Your guide to Australia's greatest garden party

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PRESENTS



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Shakespearean landscape

The Bard takes centre stage in Carlton Gardens

MANDY SQUIRES

As anyone who has studied Shakespeare can attest, there is no single correct interpretation of his works. Many themes are as relevant today as they were when they were penned in the late 1500s and early 1600s.

This makes Shakespeare the perfect subject for an imaginative, freestyle display by some of the state's most creative landscape designers.

The Landscape Industry Association Victoria (LIAV) invited eight landscape designers to let their imaginations run wild in interpreting a quote from Shakespeare.

Exhibits did not have to "look pretty" or contain traditional garden elements, LIAV executive officer Julie Edmonds says. Indeed, they were to be viewed as interpretative art works and referred to as installations rather than gardens.

An example was one landscape designer who, inspired by the

quote "now is the winter of our discontent", created a "dark and gothic" installation focusing on the drought and using skulls.

"The designers were really encouraged to think outside the square on this," Edmonds says.

"The only rule was each installation could not cost more than \$5000."

A central stage will host twice-daily performances by the Australian Shakespeare Company. Cobblestone paths with cafe tables will run behind the stage, linking the installations to create a form of theatre precinct.

"What we are trying to do is get the public to think about landscapes differently," Edmonds says.

"That they can be art spaces — living, reflective and changing." *

See the Shakespearean installations at the LIAV stand A75 in Carlton Gardens. The Australian Shakespeare Company will perform 20-minute musical performances each day at 11am and 3pm.



Bard ball: landscape designer Richard Bellemo with his Shakespearean installation The Globe, which is based on "All the world's a stage ..." from *As You Like It*.

Showing the way

While lush, green gardens with flourishing flora may be the order of the day at the MIFGS, organisers are extremely conscious of the fact drought conditions and water restrictions will impact on visitors' ability to recreate similar verdant displays at home.

With this in mind, a special savewater! display will feature practical ways of creating beautiful gardens — ways that do not rely on mains water.

The display includes a modern version of a cottage garden and a "rain garden", which directs rainwater from downpipes on to the garden.

Information on greywater, tanks, composting and the latest water-saving products and gardening techniques will also be available.

A concerted effort will be made to conserve water throughout the



show, with recycled water used in all water features and also in watering display gardens.

After the show, the recycled water will be used by the City of Melbourne to water trees or fill ponds. *

The savewater! stand is at B83 in Carlton Gardens.

Petite and perfect

Good things come in small packages, and so it is with roses.

Featuring finely sculpted petals and beautiful clusters of blooms, the new miniature Delbard roses — to be launched at MIFGS — will appeal as much to serious gardeners as to inner-city apartment dwellers seeking a little Parisian patio colour.

The charming, yet hardy, low-growing rose bushes have shiny, dark green leaves and are blessed with an exuberant, long-flowering season of spring through to autumn.

Perfect for small balconies or terraces, the petite rose range is a miniature version of Delbard's famous Painters' Collection.

Roses available include the Maurice Utrillo, Henri Matisse, Paul Cezanne, Rose Cascade, Grimaldi, Grand Siecle, Polichinelle and Grimald Double varieties.



Striking colour combinations ensure that while they are small, the beautiful blooms will be noticeable whether they are planted in a special corner of the garden or a window box four storeys above the street. *

The Delbard stand is at B64 in Carlton Gardens.