

Botanical Book Newsletter Extract

Issue 6: May 2001

Paper in Prison

In November 2000, Red Hot Fibre packed up the pulp, trays and molds and deckles and went to jail. One aim of the Botanical Book project Stage 1 was to take paper making to the prisoners in the maximum security Woodford Corrections Centre. Inmates in the Centre's Arts Education Unit eagerly took up the opportunity to make their own paper (100% cotton – hollander beaten corduroy), learn the art of traditional marbling and learning a locking concertina book binding technique.

In the Garden

Seeds are now available from Red Hot Fibre for **Ramie** (China grass) *Boehmeria nivea* - a source of fine bast fibre, sometimes referred to as vegetable silk. A member of the nettle family and quite vigorous, the outer bark can be difficult to remove. The fibre makes a fine pale paper. For more information or seeds contact Red Hot Fibre.

A sample of ramie was recently hand spun by Karleen Lewis of the Redcliffe Spinners and Weavers. (Meetings: 1:00 - 3:00 pm 1st Thursday every month, Clontarf CWA Hall.)

Botanical Book Project - Update

We are well into Stage 2 of this project. During this stage of the project, workshop participants will learn or enhance skills in book binding.

Participants of the Botanical Book Project met for a project planning morning at the Cooroy Butter Factory on Tuesday 20 March to discuss strategies for workshops, community development, this Newsletter and the "Paper and String" exhibition to be held at the Redcliffe City Art Gallery in May 2002.

Paper and String an exhibition of natural fibre artworks.

Red Hot Fibre will work with artists interested in exploring the ways in which we play and create with the mediums of paper and string. Cellulose is the predominant fibre to be featured in the exhibition sourced from plants such as hemp, cotton, ramie, sisal, pandanus etc.