



*Campsis radicans* Trumpet Flower  
Beverley Graham 1994

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# Campsis

Newsletter of the  
Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc.

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## From the President

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT achievement of the Association in the last twelve months has been the expansion of our membership after our rules were changed to admit Friends groups in areas of Australia outside Victoria and not close to the borders of Victoria. Eleven new Members have joined the Association, making 30 in all. We welcome two Association Members:

- Friends of the Alfred Nicholas Gardens, Sherbrooke, Victoria
  - Friends of Burnley Gardens Inc., Melbourne,
- eight Associate Members:
- Friends of the Darwin Botanic Gardens, Inc.
  - Friends of the Eurobodalla Native Botanic Gardens, N.S.W.
  - Friends of the Olive Pink Flora Reserve, Alice Springs
  - Friends of the Palmetum Association Inc., Aitkenvale, Qld
  - Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney Inc.
  - Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens Inc., Hobart, Tas
  - Friends of the Tasmanian Arboretum Inc., Devonport, Tas
  - Friends of The Waite Arboretum, Adelaide,
- and a Public Authority Member:
- Frankston City Council, for the George Pentland Botanic Gardens.

**Botanic Gardens in Western Victoria.** After a meeting with Friends groups from western and south-western Victoria, and later with John Hawker, a letter was sent suggesting that they ask their local Councils to approach Heritage Victoria. Heritage Victoria may be able to provide financial help in obtaining expert horticultural and botanical assistance needed for the conservation and enhancement of their botanic gardens.

**Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, Daylesford.** Some progress is reported in the development of the Master Plan proposed for the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens.

The Committee is endeavouring to obtain a copy of the Master Plan so that the Association can write in support of the Friends of Wombat Hill.

### **Galarangi Botanic Garden, Carlingford, N.S.W.**

The Parramatta City Council is reviewing the Master Plan for the Galarangi Botanic Garden and other gardens within its control. The Friends asked for support in representing to the Council that the Plan prepared some time ago should be implemented, and not altered. Galarangi is small but significant Garden because it contains a remnant of the local flora. The Association wrote to the Council and received a reply acknowledging the Association's representation.

The Friends of Galarangi are not a Member of the Association, but it is the policy of the Committee that support will be given, when appropriate, to any Friends group, whether a Member or not.

**Campsis.** This issue includes contributions from twelve of the Association's Members, including two from new Members. While this is very encouraging I remind all those whose news and aspirations are not mentioned that the purpose of *Campsis*, reflected in its name, is to give you an opportunity, twice a year, to trumpet your news to a very wide audience. So I urge you all to be ready to contribute when the next call comes in October. The deadline for copy to reach the Secretary will be Friday 20 October.

**The Albury Conference.** As President of the Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens I hope that as many of our Member groups as possible will be represented at the workshops and other events of the Conference in a fortnight's time. The theme, of interest to you all, is 'The Challenge of 2000 and Beyond'.

## Jeff Gates

### **Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens**

LOOKING BACK THROUGH the diary over past events reminds us of how rewarding it is to belong to a Friends group and just how busy we have been.

- Our new Rose Garden is in the planning stages.

- In November we helped in the Australian Network for Plant Conservation Conference at Lake Hume Resort, which was a great success for all involved.
- On 30 November we were treated to the Wollemi Pine exhibition by Janelle and Rusty from the R.B.G. Sydney in our recently-completed office complex in the Gardens. *Wollemia nobilis* is named after the Wollemi National Park and the David Noble, the National Parks Officer who discovered the 38 pines deep in the Park. Wollemi comes from the aboriginal word for 'watch out' or 'look around you'. You may read about it on the website [www.rbg Syd.gov.au](http://www.rbg Syd.gov.au).

On 19 December we were saddened by the passing of Tom Savige, one of our most senior and much-loved members, at the age of 86. Tom served as

President and Registrar of the International Camellia Society  
Patron and Fellow of the Australian Camellia Research Society, and

President of the Albury Horticultural Society.

The Camellia Garden will be dedicated to the memory of Tom Savige at a ceremony on Saturday 8 April, during the Association Conference. His legacy will live on in his collection of Camellias, propagated shortly before his death by our Growing Friends group and now planted in the new Camellia garden.

'Music and Songs in the Gardens' was held on 23 January, and proved very popular, with almost 400 visitors enjoying the 'Sing Australia Choir' and some fine music from the 'Revival Swing Band'. This was an event we will certainly repeat.

The Australian Trust for Conservation volunteers have been very busy over the last 4 months removing environmental weeds, building nesting boxes and repairing fences at the Crimson Spider Orchid site. Two of these groups were treated to evening barbecues, hosted by the Albury Friends and Botanic Gardens staff. Six female students from South Korea enjoyed the hospitality and were enthralled by our friendly possum. The second group was made up of students from Denmark, Korea, Japan, Holland, England and Ararat. A grant from NSW Biodiversity Strategy and Crown Lands weed funding enabled the work to be carried out. Gill McDonald, of the Department of Land & Water Conservation, put together the successful submission on behalf of the Threatened Species Recovery Team. This year a further \$5000 has been granted for this project.

David Honeybun of the Rutherglen & District Garden Club, a member of the Albury Friends, obtained the services of Barry Johnson, President of the Rose Society, to develop plans for the new Rose Garden in our Gardens. We hope to have that the garden and its arbours will be complete by the end of the year.

We have just held our third Annual Plant Sale and provided the scene for the Mayoral garden Party, held for Senior Citizens Week.

We are all keenly looking forward to welcoming those coming to the Conference from 7 to 10 April. We have arranged a lively weekend and sincerely hope that all our visitors will find the Conference a satisfying and rewarding experience.

**Paul Scannell**

## Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

**F**IRST, THE BAD NEWS...the RBG Board has determined that it will take over the Friends' Shop by the Ornamental Lake, in order to manage all the retail outlets in the gardens. Despite strong objections from the Friends, we were unable to stall this action, having no legal tenure of the premises. Following the resignations of the Shop Manager Jill Swann and the Assistant Manager Gera Tonge, the Shop will cease trading on 20 April.

The Board's decision holds serious implications for the Friends. It will deprive us of a significant proportion of our income (net profit in 1998-99 was about \$50,000); we will lose our only public face in the Gardens; and more than 40 volunteers will no longer have this opportunity for service and fulfilment. The Director is considering initiatives to compensate us, but many Members feel it will be difficult to recover the goodwill that has been lost.

The Shop developed from one of the Friends' earliest initiatives, a table set up in the kiosk in 1983 to sell Herbarium publications and postcards at weekends. It progressed to what was labelled 'the hole in the wall', and finally to its present premises. Despite extreme space limitations, the Friends' Shop has catered very successfully for the (largely tourist) market and has offered a welcome diversity of choice. In the ten years to 30 June 1999 the Shop sales totalled more than \$3,325,000 and its net surplus was over \$360,000, a remarkable achievement of the Manager and her dedicated staff and volunteers.

In recent years the Gardens has taken expert scientific advice and attempted numerous methods to control the grey-headed flying foxes invading the RBG in ever-increasing numbers. Nothing has succeeded. At present about 8000 bats occupy one-third of the Gardens, causing irreparable damage. The Fern Gully is particularly affected, and trees have had to be removed there. On 7 March Dr Philip Moors, in association with the Department of Natural resources and Environment, announced a culling program to begin immediately and extend over five years. Predictably, this 'last resort' strategy is being challenged, and the Director's announcement is unlikely to be the last word on the subject.

Given Melbourne's hot, dry summer, the timing was perfect for the revitalisation of the Water Conservation Garden in the Eastern Lawn. Sponsorship from South East Water facilitated redesign and interpretation which demonstrates the ability of selected introduced and native species to flourish in dry conditions.

Environmental principles are also to the fore with a new system of recycling green waste to provide mulch for garden beds. Grants from EcoRecycle Victoria and the Friends (\$19,200) will enable screens and bins to be installed for the recycling of visitors' rubbish.

Two other major grants recently approved by the Friends' Council are:

- \$66,200 to enable Helen Cohn, the Librarian of the National Herbarium, to work full-time on writing the history of the Herbarium for its 150th anniversary in 2003, and

- \$48,900 for the mounting and recording of the Herbarium's legume collection

These grants will bring to more than \$740,000 the funds donated by the Friends to the Gardens, directly or through the Trust Fund, since October 1985.

The Friends' Trust Fund has received a bequest of \$280,000 under the will of the late Helen Johns, and the Trustees have agreed in principle to use some of this bequest, possibly about \$100,000, to restore the silt-filled Central Lake. The Trustees are waiting to be advised of the result of tendering for the work, in order to know how much will be the cost.

The first Children's Garden to be established in any of Australia's botanic gardens is being designed for Melbourne. Linked with the RBG's educational activities, it will combine horticultural displays and environmental programs, with a bronze sculpture of The Magic Pudding envisaged as a 'magnet'. The garden will be developed between Observatory House and the Herbarium.

For once, the result of the Growing Friends' Autumn Sale on 18/19 March was below expectations, even though takings of almost \$20,000 is not a sum to be sneezed at! The hot weather, the non-appearance of a notice in *The Age*, and the great congestion around the Gardens with a Wine and Food Festival are all possible reasons for a smaller-than-usual attendance. The Spring Sale has been set for 7/8 October. After five years as Co-ordinator of the Growing Friends Sharon Beaman has stepped down, to be succeeded by Joan Hardy.

After the retirement of Caroline Cornish and Janet James, the Hon. John Button, Cathy Hossack and Dr Richard Kirsner have joined the Friends' Council. At our annual meeting in November Margaret Howes, Ellen Mercer and Celia Rosser were elected to Honorary Life Membership in recognition of their outstanding service. An exhibition of Celia's work, to coincide with the publication of *The Banksias* Vol. 3, will be held in Mueller Hall in July.

For the first time, Certificates of Appreciation have been awarded to Members who have given outstanding voluntary support to the Friends' office staff. At our Christmas party Elizabeth Fincher, Mary Meadley, Rosemary McMeekin and Joan Murphy were honoured. Certificates will also be given to the many Shop volunteers at a function on 3 April. Some have been associated with the Shop for 16 years.

The Gardens' plan to begin publication of a quarterly colour magazine this year is prompting the Friends to consider whether changes should be made to the form of our quarterly *Botanic News* and our occasional *Botanic Magazine*. Volume 8 of *Botanic Magazine* was distributed to Members in November.

The Botanical Illustrators are preparing for their major biennial exhibition in October. Besides the regular classes, an intensive etching workshop and a course in basic botany were arranged to expand the technical skills of our artists. This year, talks or presentations will take place on the second Tuesday morning of each month.

Jill, Duchess of Hamilton, told the fascinating story of Redouté's paintings of Australian plants for the Empress Josephine at a December meeting, which filled Mueller Hall to overflowing

Another activity—a cruise on the Maribyrnong River and a visit to Footscray Park—proved so popular in January that we filled two repeats of this outing. An autumn bus tour to Beechworth and Bright has also appealed to our Members. A forthcoming event will be an illustrated talk by the Director, Philip Moors, our Secretary Lawrence Cohn and his daughter Helen, who visited four New Zealand Sub-Antarctic islands and Australia's Macquarie Island in the Southern Ocean in November. Penguins, seals, albatrosses and the unique flora were the attractions. In May we'll catch up with horticultural developments at the Melbourne Zoo and learn about New Zealand plants from landscape designer and photographer Rob Lucas.

## Heather Ironmonger

### Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens

THE SEVERE WEATHER conditions in the past months have taken a toll in the Hamilton Botanic Gardens. The city is suffering water restrictions from which the Gardens are not exempt. Gardens' staff members are working to keep alive the valuable trees and shrubs. The co-ordinator of Parks and Gardens reported that an arborist had to be employed to attend to one of the huge *Quercus robur* trees that had developed a severe split—other trees are showing signs of stress with falling limbs and premature leaf drop. Friends are maintaining a roster system for hand-watering to sustain the plants that have recently been planted in the Cottage garden.

Friends aim to have the Cottage open to the public on a regular part-time basis within the next couple of weeks, and will continue until the winter months deter visitors. It has been a long process of up-grading the kitchen area, providing toilet facilities and producing historic data to display. We are now having postcards printed for sale, and hope to carry out propagation of some plants to sell.

On New Year's Day a time capsule was buried as part of the new millennium celebrations. The Shire's Australia Day celebrations were also held in the Gardens, on a beautiful summer's day. This time there were official duties performed and an interesting address by Mr Bob Ansett, who spent some of his childhood years as a Hamilton resident.

Monthly live music organised by the Friends and performed from the rotunda continues to draw an appreciative audience.

The annual general meeting was attended by interested members of the public, who heard a panel discussion titled 'The value of Hamilton Botanic Gardens as a teaching facility'.

Friends are happy to report that they now have an ex-officio committee member who is a qualified botanist, and who has already given much valued help.

By the time this goes to print we hope the drought will have broken, and all gardens throughout the state will be much healthier.

## Beris Smith

## Friends of Burnley Gardens

**T**HE FRIENDS OF BURNLEY GARDENS began in August 1997. The group arose from some concerned students believing that the historic Burnley Gardens needed support, both financially and practically. Starting the group from scratch has been a long haul. We are now incorporated and are off and running, starting to do some wonderful things.

The aim of the FOBG is to raise public awareness of these special gardens. They began in 1848, when John Pascoe Fawkner called a public meeting at the Queen's Head Hotel, Melbourne, which he owned, to form a horticultural society, which was known as the Victorian Horticultural Society. During the gold rush the society went into decline; it was reformed in 1855 as the Horticultural Society of Victoria. It was important in the development of the orchard industry. In 1850 work had begun on the garden site at Richmond. We have some superb trees planted on the site; one of our oldest is the *Agathis robusta* planted in 1851. Superintendent Charles La Trobe permanently reserved the 25 acres (10.1 ha) in 1860. By 1885 the gardens had been granted royal status and became the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria.

In 1891 the RHSV was declared bankrupt and the colonial government decided to establish a horticultural school on the site. It is the only one of its kind in Australia and it has played an important role in educating our past and present horticulturists.

One of the aims of the FOBG is to help continue this historical legacy. In consultation with the Gardens Manager projects are decided upon and the Friends then start raising money. Our first project has been to raise funds to restore our Ellis Stones garden, which he donated to Burnley College in 1961. We have been very fortunate in finding his plans of the garden, which were safely housed in the Victorian State Library. Our idea is to re-instate the Outcrop/Dry Watercourse Garden.

Our group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6.30 pm in the Burnley Seminar and Training Centre. We have had some excellent speakers. For example, Dr Greg Moore, Burnley's Principal, spoke to us about plant evolution, and Anne Latreille talked to us about Ellis Stones. Every July we have a cheese and wine fundraising night and we have a ball. We have three working bees a year, where we get our hands dirty in the gardens, and on our propagation Sundays cuttings are taken from the garden and potted up. The working bees and propagation days are always good for learning something new about horticulture.

This year is Burnley's 150th year on this site and on 21 and 22 October the Friends will host an Open Garden Weekend. There will be lots of activities, such as the Diploma Students' annual plant sale, guest speakers, garden tours and plenty of food! We would love you all to come to enjoy our very special gardens.

**Sandi Pullman**

## Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

**T**HE FRIENDS HAVE WELCOMED Mr Rob Small, recently-appointed General Manager, Environment and Recreation Services, to committee meetings held in January and February. Rob is internationally recognised for his expertise in Parks Management and Botanic Gardens, so we are really delighted at last to have strong leadership in this way. Rob would like to see our plant collections rigorously monitored, the status of the Botanic Gardens maintained and partnerships formed with other community groups. We think there is much work ahead for the Friends.

The dates for the Association's 2001 Conference, to be held in Geelong, have been altered to 16 and 17 June. A Botanic Art Exhibition featuring plants from the Geelong Botanic Gardens will be held at the Geelong Art Gallery to coincide with the Conference.

A new brochure, Tree Discovery Walk, which introduces some of the interesting trees in the Gardens is now available to the public. The production of the brochure, which contains excellent botanic drawings by Enid Mayfield, required much research and proof-reading by the Friends.

Nearly 50 Friends enjoyed an illustrated talk by Terry Smyth, RBG Melbourne horticulturist, at our February meeting. We have an excursion organised to view Terry's Southern Chinese Collection at the RBG in late March. We will also experience the Aboriginal Heritage Walk.

The Pagasus Jazz Group performed in the Gardens on 19 March. We had a similar concert last year.

April will be a very busy month for the Friends with the Association Conference in Albury, a lecture at the Gardens by Heidi Gildemeister and our annual general meeting.

Geelong is suffering very badly from one of the longest dry spells on record; water restrictions have now been in place for 18 months. After numerous submissions to Barwon Water the Botanic gardens are now able to use sprinklers for a period at night, supplement by hand-held hoses. A small group of Friends has been hand-watering the gardens for more than 4 months. Many of our old trees are showing signs of stress, losing limbs and leaves. Everyone in Geelong and the Otways prays for rain.

**Jayne Salmon**

## Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens

**T**HE SUMMER MONTHS have been a very quiet time for visitor participation, although much progress has been made with extensive new plantings throughout the gardens. Very adverse weather conditions, with flooding downpours, extreme heat bursts causing severe burning to some roses, breakdowns in our pumps system, etc., have presented many problems. However, the Gardens are bouncing back and the autumn roses are about to present a magnificent dis-

play. An enthusiastic band of volunteers continues to 'dead-head' the roses each week until winter pruning in July, ensuring a continuous display through nine months of the year.

In February we were delighted to accept a New South Wales Government grant of \$50,000 over three years, enabling the addition of an extra apprentice, bringing the garden staff to seven. Our 2nd-year apprentice, Karen Considine, has been awarded a prize for achieving the highest skill levels in her class for 1999, the third staff member to win such an award and a proud achievement for the very diligent Gardens staff.

Voluntary work continues to be a big contributor to progress, mostly by the much older generation. An infusion of younger members to our working group would be most welcome. Our static display gazebo is half-way there, and a recent seed collection effort saw Friends collecting large sacks of poached-egg daisy seeds, for establishment of meadow plants in the Australian section. The completion of the streams, lakes and first lawn areas is the next step forward.

Members catered for a February wedding reception at the Garmpang Historic Homestead–Information Centre, after a ceremony in the lovely outdoor chapel. It was an extremely hot day, but a happy one for the family of a member of the Gardens staff.

A cancelled day trip, scheduled for last November, is now planned for 1 October, to Swan Hill gardens.

A very busy period is ahead, with attendance at the Albury Conference, the annual Open Day for Mother's Day and our 10th anniversary celebrations on 20/21 May, when our 'First Ten Years' history booklet will be launched. A civic reception, dinner and appreciation day to thank all Patrons, volunteers and Friends will mark the efforts of so many people in achieving such a wonderful Botanic Gardens.

## Margaret Hall

### Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

OUR ANNUAL FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY held in the rotunda was a great success, and the Gardens, with their summer parterre and ribbon planting looked superb. The gardeners have tirelessly watered precious trees, shrubs and garden beds to get us through what has been one of the hottest and driest summers on record.

The Growing Friends have installed an irrigation system for their Curator's Cottage garden and the new espaliered fruit trees, and are busy potting up plants for sale for our 'Day in the Gardens' on 26 March.

The Friends have recently produced a colour brochure (our first) for general distribution. It contains photos of special interest to visitors, a map of important features and information on guided walks. We have been continuing our weekly guided tours and recently larger community groups have asked us to show them through the Gardens outside of normal hours, which we are happy to do by prior arrangement.

Marie Johnstone is in process of writing the history of the Friends. In 1989 the City of Warrnambool was nominated for the Premier Town Award, which we subsequently won. To help the promotion Ellen

Dwyer and Isobel Jones were asked to form a Friends' group for the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. Ellen became Foundation President and Isobel the Secretary. Both are still active on the committee. The Friends will be producing a booklet on the history of the group to mark the first ten years.

Recently Marie Ziebell met an expert in native tree propagation with a view to collecting seed and cuttings from those trees indigenous to the Gardens. Of greatest urgency are the *Bursaria spinosa*, with only five remaining, and the ancient *Eucalyptus viminalis* ssp. *cygnetensis*.

## Marigold Curtis

### Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

OUR MAJOR EVENT OF THE PAST YEAR, the Friends' Annual Dinner, was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, including Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, Patron of the Gardens, Celia Rosser, internationally-renowned botanical artist, and many other leading horticultural figures. Leon Costermans gave a most interesting talk on Victoria's flora, with slides showing the impact of the underlying geology on the flora. The combination of geological and botanical information was a wonderful insight into our fascinating flora.

Planning is well under way for our next dinner on 20 May. We are fortunate to have Dr Mary E. White as our speaker; she is well known for her books on the evolution of the Australian environment. These include *The Greening of Gondwana*, first published in 1986. *After the Greening—The Browning of Australia* is an account of how Australia became the driest vegetated continent. Published in 1994, it won the Eureka Prize for that year. *Listen..Our Land is Crying* was published in 1997, and Mary's latest book, *Running Down—Water in a Changing Land*, will be released later this year. Bookings for the dinner are now available by contacting Anita Hennekam at RBG Cranbourne on 5990 2200.

The Friends have recently completed a National Heritage Trust grant of \$28,000 for revegetation of the southern boundary of the Gardens. This involved the Growing Friends producing 7000 indigenous plants and the Friends in site preparation and planting. Thanks go to the staff for the assistance we received to help this project to completion. The sunshine and rain are producing amazing growth. Visitors are very welcome to inspect the results of our efforts.

We have successfully applied for a Parks Victoria grant to produce a Friends brochure. This will be a brochure showing how the Friends support the Gardens, our activities and how new Friends can join. It will also promote the Gardens and will be used at all activities. It will be placed at appropriate venues throughout Victoria.

The Gardens and the Friends hosted a day in October when 3CR Garden Show listeners visited RBG Cranbourne. The day was a little damp, but gardeners being people who don't mind some precipitation turned out in force, with over 100

attending on the day. This was an excellent way of promoting the Gardens, with buses dropping people at suitable places around the Gardens. The more energetic visitors were taken on guided walks through the Bushland Conservation Zone to look at the spring display of indigenous flora. In the afternoon Mark Gallon and Paul Thompson took a large group to see the work in progress in the Australian garden. Seeing a garden in the making and hearing about how it will look in the future gives our visitors a sense of the significant work under way.

The Australian Garden project has had a minor setback because the promise of funding by the previous Government has not eventuated. However, reports in the local press give us hope that the new Government will support the project. It is pleasing that our Local Government is fully behind the project and bi-partisan support will see it funded in the future.

The Friends are pleased to announce our first financial donation to the RBG Cranbourne. \$5000 has been given to the Gardens for the purchase of display stands and a fine fuel moisture meter. It is very satisfying for the Friends to be able to make such a direct contribution to the Gardens.

### **David Stewart**

### **Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens**

**T**HE BEGONIA FESTIVAL IS ALWAYS a busy time in our Gardens. The staff are to be congratulated on the hard work and planning that have brought our Gardens to perfection for this special time. The begonia display this year features new acquisitions—'Eureka', 'Kookaburra', 'Portchester' and NBS 'Prize' also known as 'Russell'. The Friends were busy with plant sales for the ten days of the Festival, a very important time for swelling our funds.

After the Festival, work will begin on the North Garden Wetland Project earthworks, to construct an underground Grass Pollutant Trap. The wetland is the first stage. Final planting and landscaping is to be carried out by Council staff with the help of University of Ballarat Horticultural Campus.

On 11 April we will welcome to Ballarat Heidi Gildemeister, President of the Mediterranean Garden Society. She will speak on 'Gardening the Mediterranean way—why waste water?' Heidi will speak at noon, and lunch will follow in the Robert Clark Centre. The cost is \$20 and bookings may be made with Helen on 5320 7444. Only 50 tickets are available.

Last month we were visited by the Melbourne Growing Friends and also by the newly-formed Friends of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens. Several of our members will be attending the Association Conference in Albury.

**The Buninyong Botanic Gardens.** David Jones, from Adelaide University, has been appointed as consultant to undertake the Conservation Plan and Landscape Master Plan. David set up a caravan at the Buninyong Gold King Festival to meet locals and visitors. A questionnaire was handed out and over 70 replies were received.

### **Joan Garner**

### **Friends of the Eurobodalla Native Botanic Gardens**

**F**IRST, I SHOULD EXPLAIN the name. We are in the Shire of Eurobodalla and flourish under its patronage. The towns of Batemans Bay, Moruya, Tuross and Bodalla should give you an idea of where we are on the south coast of New South Wales.

We are situated five kilometres south of Batemans Bay on the Princes Highway, tucked in below Deep Creek dam, the area's water storage. We have 42 ha of state forestry land and are unusual in that we grow only local native plants. Compared to many of the Botanic Gardens in Victoria we are very young, only twelve years old.

The name Eurobodalla means 'land of many waters' and the Gardens reflect this in having many bodies of water within its bounds, some man-made and some naturally occurring.

At the moment the big project in the Gardens is the building of our Information Centre and Herbarium, which will largely increase our 'customer base' as well as our workload. The Information Centre will have facilities to sell a variety of goods, serve refreshments, be a function centre and a venue for local arts and crafts, and the focal point for visitors to have access to all parts of the Gardens.

The Herbarium collection began in 1985 and has led a nomadic life, particularly in the last few years. We have over 5000 specimens of more than 1000 species collected from our region, which encompasses 4500 km<sup>2</sup>, much of which is forestry land.

Much of the physical work done in the Gardens is by Friends; indeed, all of the plant propagation, potting and planting is done by our willing volunteers.

We have big ideas and plans but, like many Botanic Gardens, have limited finance. I believe that we must reach for the stars and not be discouraged if we don't quite reach them.

### **Don Walton**

## **Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens**

**T**HE ST ARNAUD FRIENDS is growing in membership and works in conjunction with the official Shire Queen Mary Gardens Management Committee in their restoration to Botanic Gardens standard.

The main fund raiser is the annual March Garden Fair. Between fairs last year our funds were augmented by the donation of the gate takings from the Open Garden Day at Tottington Homestead, during the Open Garden scheme. Bryan and Ros Small, the owners of Tottington, are members of the Friends. The Friends also sold lunches and afternoon teas at the Open Day.

Members assisted in the installation of original gas lamp standards in the Gardens when the Arts Council received a Millennium grant for a suitable project. The lamps were first lit on New Year's Eve. The Gardens are now softly illuminated in keeping with the Gardens' history.

A start has been made by the Management Committee in implementing the Walsh restoration plan, providing plenty of opportunities for Friends' working bees. The Friends give money for trees and plants, and have provided a temporary watering system, pending a more permanent one funded by the Council.

At the annual Fair in March we sell plants, garden requirements, etc., serve Devonshire teas, have a relevant information stand and conduct tours of the Gardens.

Rosemary Davies was the speaker at our last Fair. At this year's Fair on 25 March we will have an expert on finding and growing 'lost' roses of the past, and an expert on plant diseases and pests. We will also have considerable help with information from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and from local nursery people.

The Friends are preparing a leaflet of information for visitors.

**Ella Ebery**

## **Friends of Castlemaine Botanical Gardens**

**D**ESIGN WORK FOR THE interpretative sign for the entrance of Castlemaine Botanical Gardens has been completed, and we now await production of the finished work. The sign has been funded by the Shire of Mount Alexander and the Friends.

A sub-committee has been working with the Shire on a ten-year up-date of the Conservation and Management Plan for the Gardens. This has involved us in meetings with the Shire and its Heritage Adviser for Gardens. The Friends are producing a ten-year history, 1990-1999, and also providing details of the Friends group, which was founded during that period.

The reconstruction of the 1872 Summerhouse, for which we received a grant of \$24,000 from the Commonwealth Federation Fund, is at the permit stage, and construction is expected to begin in March. Apprentice builders from B.R.I.T. in Bendigo will be

constructing and erecting the Summerhouse during the year as part of their course. The Friends have been closely involved in the general planning for the project, which is based on the single photograph we have of the Summerhouse in the 1920s. It is an exciting project, and we are delighted that a dream held since our foundation, and the reason for our fundraising efforts over the past years, is finally about to be realised.

**Trish Addis**

**Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens  
(Victoria) Inc.** A0026805Z

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*Vice-President:* Jayne Salmon  
*Secretary:* Lawrence Cohn  
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