



*Campsis radicans* Trumpet Flower  
Beverley Graham 1994

# Campsis

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

AS AN INAUGURAL committee member of the Association it has been very satisfying to me to observe the growth and increased interest in the Association during the last nine years. It was indeed pleasing that the resolution to change the name to 'Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens' was passed at the Annual General Meeting held on 23 March.

Association membership now includes Friends groups from four States as well as the Northern Territory and the A.C.T. I firmly believe that there is strength in diversity as well as in numbers.

The credit for the success of the Association and its expansion is due to the vision and commitment of Lawrence Cohn, our Secretary and mentor for eleven years. Without Lawrence's encouragement and quiet persuasion many Friends groups would have ceased to exist. Some believed it was quite beyond them to host a conference for the Association; this belief was changed by a gentle word from our Secretary. Through membership of the Association and meeting Friends of other Botanic Gardens one is made extremely aware of the importance of support groups to our botanic gardens.

The Committee recently discussed the desirability of setting up an Association web site, with possible links to Members. Options for such a site are now being investigated.

The 2001 Conference of the Association will be held in Geelong on 15/16/17 June. It will follow on the heels of the Heads of Botanic Gardens Conference being held in Canberra as this number of *Campsis* is being published. We expect that outcomes of this meeting will be of great interest to us all.

Our Conference, with the title *Bunce, Bunyas and Beyond*, will acknowledge the past, look to the future and explore partnerships between management, Friends and others. The possibilities are endless, and I encourage as many as possible of the members of our Friends groups to participate.

Jayne Salmon

## Friends of Wilson Botanic Park

THE OFFICIAL OPENING of the new Amphitheatre that has been constructed in a central location in the Park took place on 3 December last. It overlooks the Anniversary Lake. The opening address by the Mayor of the City of Casey was followed by a number of musical items, which demonstrated the great potential of this new facility. The opening was followed in the evening by the Annual General Meeting, with further musical entertainment in the Amphitheatre.

On 17 December Carols by Candlelight in the Amphitheatre was attended by about 2000 people. This was very successful as the first major function in this facility, with the evening's entertainment being concluded by a spectacular fireworks display over the lake.

On Saint Valentine's Day, 14 February, a picnic in the Park starting at 6 p.m. was well attended, and has become a popular annual event for the romantically inclined. An Environmental Exposition, arranged by the City of Casey was held in the Park from 27 to 29 March. Over the three days some 1500 schoolchildren attended from Casey and surrounding areas. Around the Anniversary Lake marquees provided a scenic setting for the many environmentally-oriented displays.

On 8 April we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt, a popular event for the younger children. As it attracts families to the Park it has proved a great way to publicise the Park and increase its use by the general public.

Breakfast in the Park, a progressive meal starting as 8 a.m., will take place on 6 May and will be served at various locations around the Park. From 14 to 22 July we will host an Art Competition and Exhibition, to be opened by the Governor on 13 July. Art entries will be displayed in the Administration building at the Park during the following week.

The Australian Plant Group is organising a Native Plant Sale in the Park on 1 and 2 September. Then from 16 to 30 September there will be a Historical Exhibition covering early Berwick, the Quarry and its subsequent development as Wilson Botanic Park.

To finish the year there will be an Open Gardens Day on 28 October. This will be a tour of seven private gardens in the Berwick area open to visitors, starting and finishing at Wilson Botanic Park.

Neil Creagh

## Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

**T**HE MOST EXCITING NEWS is that we have succeeded in obtaining a Victorian Federation Grant of \$14,000 to stage a Federation Fair in our beautiful Gardens, to take place on Sunday 18 November. The Fair will involve many community groups who will all come together to celebrate the centenary of Federation. They will highlight their activities with musical entertainment, theatre groups, schools, displays, art groups, etc. The Gardens were always the centre of such community celebrations at the time of Federation.

On a beautiful afternoon in February we held a musical afternoon as part of the Wunta Fiesta, an annual community celebration. This was the first time it has been held in the Gardens. The Friends raised about \$400 from Devonshire teas and refreshments. Guided walks were held, bands played and children were entertained with games that included a long tug-of-war organised by the YMCA.

Early in the summer we went for a bird walk under the expert guidance of Barbara Garrett of the Bird Observers Club of Australia. We saw 12 different kinds of birds, including the Sacred Kingfisher, the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo and the White-faced Heron. One group of four young herons were seen perching together in a tree on the edge of the lake. They had been hatched high up in one of the old pine trees and showed the importance of maintaining the older, taller trees in the pinetum.

The Friends will join other volunteer groups to celebrate the International Year of Volunteers with an Ecumenical Church Service and Expo on 18 May. Forums will also be held on Volunteer Management by Volunteering Victoria. We are very happy to join other volunteer groups in these celebrations.

The Warrnambool City Council and the Friends have also been successful in obtaining a Rural Community Development Program Grant of \$25,000 from the Victorian Government. This will be matched by contributions of \$23,000 from the Warrnambool City Council and \$2,000 from the Friends. We were invited to meet the Hon. Steve Bracks, Premier of Victoria, for the announcement of the grant in the Gardens on 15 February. The moneys received will go towards entrance signs, restoration of garden beds, fencing, replanting of trees and the completion of the rotunda. These works have been awaiting funding for some time, so we were delighted to receive the grant, especially as these works should be completed by the time of the Federation Fair in November.

## Marigold Curtis Friends of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens

**W**E HAVE NOW BEEN OPERATING for over a year and had 48 financial members when our Annual General meeting was held in February. Our Patron is Rosemary Dovies, gardening expert, author and radio personality. We organised regular activities for members during the year 2000. These have included guided walks of our parks and gardens in Bendigo, an historic tour of Rosalind Park and the Bendigo Art Gallery and visits to other botanic gardens in the Goldfields area.

We have an active Propagation group who operate out of the Bendigo City Council nursery. Our Guiding group, although small in number, have led many groups through our Gardens in the last year. Our members regularly receive newsletters.

This year we are concentrating on labelling significant trees in Rosalind Park and the White Hills Botanic Gardens. We also aim to put together information about the City's gardens that will be accessible to visitors.

A comprehensive program of activities is being arranged for 2001. On the evening of 16 August John Hawker, Heritage Officer for Victoria, will speak about the history of botanic gardens. We warmly welcome members from other groups to attend this evening. For further information contact President Glenys Anthony (phone 5443 0664).

Planning has begun for a two-day 'Discover Bendigo's Botanic Gardens', which will be held in October. This is our opportunity to repay the hospitality and guidance extended to our group by the Castlemaine, Ballarat and Wombat Hill (Daylesford) Friends.

As part of our 2001 program we have organised local walks for members, visits to other gardens and hands-on activities that support the work of the City Council in the beautification of our Gardens in Bendigo.

## Glenys Anthony

## Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

**A**N ESTIMATED 20,000 Grey-headed flying-foxes roosting in the Gardens continue to be the main pre-occupation of the Director and his staff.

However, as this situation is reported fully in the media I'll move on to happier, if less dramatic, news.

The Ian Potter Foundation has donated \$650,000 for the development of a Children's Garden on the Birdwood Avenue site formerly occupied by La Trobe's Cottage. An intriguing and unique concept for Australia, it will be a wholly horticultural play area designed to stimulate interest in the environment. Additional funds were raised by a public appeal, demonstrating the affection that Melburnians have for their Gardens. It should be planted and ready for action next year; children will be invited to build, hide in tunnels, dig, explore and exercise their imagination. In the meantime, a delightful bronze depiction of Norman Lindsay's *Magic Pudding* characters attracts many visitors to this area. Louis Laumen was the sculptor and ASPECT Computing Pty Ltd the project's sponsor through the Future Focus Group of the Committee for Melbourne.

Another landscape transformation has been taking place on Long Island in the north-western area of the Gardens where the Yarra used to flow. The removal of some non-significant trees and other material has allowed for the reintroduction of indigenous plants that grew in the area before European settlement, together with acknowledgment of the traditional occupants. Funding has been provided by the Parks Victoria Community Grants Program. A team of Green Corps

volunteers has worked on the project, which should be completed by mid-year.

Planting of the Friends' garden at Gate Lodge was carried out recently; with paving and seating, this gives us an attractive and useful outdoor space for small functions. Although some of our recent talks and excursions have failed to attract large numbers, two major events — the Art of Botanical Illustration exhibition and the Growing Friends' Autumn Plant Sale — produced outstanding results. The exhibition returned a profit to the Friends of \$26,771, promoted the skills of our talented artist members, prompted strong enrolments for our classes in botanical illustration and enabled many members to contribute. Four paintings were purchased for the State Botanical Collection with a grant of \$2500 by the Friends.

Longed-for rain immediately before the weekend sale in mid-March ensured that the plants looked in sparkling condition, and there was frantic activity when the queue of 136 was let loose among the pots at 10 o'clock on the Saturday. Members and their families give valuable assistance in many ways, so share in the pride of a wonderful financial result. The takings, net of GST, were \$24,496. The Growing Friends may be hampered in the coming months by the construction of a new propagation house for the Gardens, financed by grants totalling \$200,000 from the Friends' Trust Fund. \$178,500 of that amount will come from a bequest by the late Helen Johns, which has already provided \$120,000 towards the recently-completed desilting of the Central Lake. The Growing Friends will greatly benefit from the new facilities on their completion.

We adopted a new approach for our annual meeting in November; instead of an address after the formal business, five R.B.G. staff members reported on their projects which the Friends had financed. This provided an excellent insight into subjects as diverse as sludge removal and legume databasing. David Plant succeeded Louise Coronel as a Vice-President, while Anita Barley and Sharon Beaman were elected as Honorary Life Members. We are delighted that the new Governor of Victoria, John Landy MBE, has accepted the Friends' invitation to serve as our Patron.

We wound up the year with a Christmas Dinner in the Lyceum Club, enlivened by a characteristically humorous and down-to-earth talk by Kevin Heinze. Carmel McPhee organised a trip to Mt Buffalo for the Australia Day weekend, and an early-April bus tour included a walk around Daylesford's Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens with their Friends and visits to Creswick's Landcare Centre and School of Forestry.

Later in April we are to have talks by two notables in Australia for the Public Gardens Congress in Canberra: Judith Zuk from New York's Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Professor Guan Kaiyun from Kunming Botanical Garden in China's Yunnan Province.

Dean Stewart will lead an Aboriginal Heritage Walk for us on 3 May, and Michael McCoy will examine the relevance to Australians of English gardening books on 17 May — a provocative and fascinating topic for all who are seduced by alluringly-illustrated coffee-table books.

**Heather Ironmonger**

## **Friends of the Palmetum, Aitkenvale**

**B**EFORE I GIVE YOU ALL an update on what the Friends of the Palmetum have been up to in 2000

I'll give you a bit of background into our association. We became incorporated in April 1993 and now have about 30 members. We have monthly meetings with numbers attending being about eight. Our objectives are to develop support for the Palmetum so that knowledge, appreciation and the enjoyment of palms and the environments in which they occur are fostered and deepened, particularly with the residents of, and visitors to, the City of Townsville.

2000 proved to be a busy year of planning for the Friends of the Palmetum. One way in which we achieve our objectives is to conduct regular free tours of the Palmetum. The guides are members of the Friends who have undergone a tour guide training course run by the Friends. An extensive knowledge of palms is not required to be a tour guide. The tours begin at 2.30 p.m. every Saturday from the first Saturday in May to the last Saturday in September. Unfortunately some slow work from the local council and some inaccurate advertising in 2000 led to poor attendance rates. Because of that we have decided to put a lot of effort into advertising this year. If any of you will be visiting Townsville, please let us know so that we can give you a tour of the Palmetum at your convenience.

One of our more successful projects last year was the special talk we had from Katherine Maidman, Curator of the Palms and Cycads at the Fairchild Tropical Gardens in Miami, Florida. She gave an excellent presentation of the history and current botany of the gardens. Our annual palm sales day in August also went well.

An area of concern for us is the lack of a curator for the Palmetum. With such a large collection of native and exotic palms it is a shame that the Palmetum has been left without a curator for almost a year, and unfortunately it is suffering for it.

In 2001 we expect to increase our physical presence within the Palmetum, assisting the Council with some maintenance work and perhaps providing refreshments to the visiting public. We will also try to organise some excursions to areas of interest outside Townsville for members of the association, to increase their awareness of palms in the rainforest/bush setting. We expect all the planning done in 2000 will give us a very interesting 2001.

**Danielle Haller**

## Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens

**T**HE MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT of the Hamilton Friends for 2001 has been the establishment of a Garden Advisory Committee. With a membership that includes John Hawker (Heritage Victoria) and Dr Andrew Drinnan (Associate Professor of Botany, University of Melbourne), we are looking forward to working in implementing the conservation analysis that was prepared for our Gardens some time ago.

Our annual meeting was held on 8 March, when we were pleased to welcome five new members onto our committee, including two from the Botanical Artists group, which meets each month in the Gardens cottage. Jenny Kane became our President. The speaker for the night was landscape gardener Catherine Drew, who showed us slides and talked about her recent trip to Europe and America as a Churchill Fellow.

From 27 to 29 April Hamilton will be hosting a Promenade of Sacred Music, some of which will be celebrated in the Botanic Gardens. Fortunately we have had some early rain this year and the Gardens are looking in fine shape.

Last November Hamilton Botanic Gardens won Category 5 (Heritage Preservation) in the Rural Pride awards, and our Carols by Candlelight was an outstanding success in bringing a large section of the community for this pre-Christmas celebration. Our regular monthly Music in the Gardens continues its popularity, and we look forward to continuing this established tradition, as well as introducing some new activities in the Gardens cottage this year.

### Joan Hyslop

## Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens

**T**HE FRIENDS HAVE HAD a very busy start to 2001. Our annual Begonia Festival was held from 2 to 12 March this year, with a new concept. All garden-related displays, exhibitions and retail outlets were focused around the Robert Clark Centre and the Conservatory, with its magnificent display of Begonias. The response to this change was very positive, and I'm sure the Festival committee will expand on their success next year. The Growing Friends are always well prepared, with an abundance of perennial plants, and a large stock of non-stop Begonias which we grow from seed during the year. All our pots sell for \$4 and we made a profit of \$7,000 over the ten days. We had a wonderful response from our members for volunteers to fill the 10-day roster, and over 40 members helped in one way or another. We celebrated a week later with a 'thank you' afternoon tea, enjoyed by all.

Trish Slack, from 'The Heights' in Geelong, was a speaker at our February meeting. She told us of the problems involved in maintaining a property and a garden like 'The Heights'. We followed her talk with a visit to 'The Heights' and 'Claremont' in Geelong and enjoyed seeing, first-hand, the work that has been done, and what still needs to be done.

The first week of April was Ballarat Heritage week. The Guides were involved with tours of the Gardens on 4 and 8 April. These tours had a Federation theme.

Earlier we had a most successful launch of the Statues Group. We have been concerned for some time about the state of our many beautiful statues as the need for cleaning and restoration has become urgent. Mrs Catherine Laffey, one of our members and a former Councillor of the City of Ballarat, agreed to chair the Group, and we are delighted to have the support of our Mayor and Several Councillors, at least one Rotary Club as well as the University. This will be a big project, but I have no doubt that we will be able to achieve our goal.

Our North Gardens Wetland area will be ready for planting very shortly, when seeding works for grassed and sterile stabilising crops and path works are completed. The Friends will be very involved with this and with the completion of the western border of our Gardens this year.

Our annual general meeting will be on 24 May. Preparations are well under way for the Association's 2002 Conference, which we will be hosting, along with the Friends of the Castlemaine, Wombat Hill (Daylesford) and Buninyong Botanic Gardens. We are looking forward to seeing many of you then.

### Joan Garner

## Friends of Burnley Gardens

**T**HE YEAR 2000 SAW MORE ACTIVITY than ever before in this small and young organisation.

In July we reinstated the traditional Pruning Day that many people remember from way back. It was attended by a small and enthusiastic crowd. At the end of October we marked the 150th celebration of Burnley Gardens with an Open Weekend. The Gardens looked magnificent and we were supported by community groups mounting very popular displays and by beautiful weather.

Our monthly meetings/talks have continued with Geoff Carr talking on weeds, which was unexpectedly fascinating, David Plant on birds during a twilight tour of the Gardens, Jan Schapper and Lee Andrews also touring the Gardens with a historical perspective and on 5 April when John Arnott talked of his plans for the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Future evenings will offer a wide-ranging program at 6.30 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month in the Field Station on the Boulevard, just beyond Burnley College. On 3 May Ruth Beilin will focus on the Global Garden. All are welcome at these small, friendly and stimulating evenings.

During the weekend of 25 and 26 April we will be running a seminar for beginner gardeners, using the College facilities, and we are lining up an interesting and practical program. We hope to make it as much of it as possible 'hands on'.

### Elsbeth Ferguson

## Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens

**I**N JANUARY AND FEBRUARY extremely high temperatures and humidity presented many problems and the loss of mature plants now needing replacement. The roses also suffered badly, but are now, with the cooler weather, recovering and a good autumn display is assured. Our very enthusiastic 'dead-heading' group continue their task each Wednesday, keeping the roses trimmed and in good condition.

Visitors have been sparse but with Easter and Mother's Day coming up a big increase is expected. Several weddings have been held in the lovely Outdoor Chapel and in the Rose Garden.

The Sturt Desert Pea has responded well to the heat and is a show-piece attraction near the Gampang Information Centre.

On the first Sunday of each month a conducted tractor/train tour followed by a light lunch is proving very popular. On Mother's Day, 13 May, hourly train tours will be given, with the usual Devonshire teas, barbecue lunches, stall and guided walks. We now have souvenir tea-towels for sale and many craft items made by various Friends. We also cater for group bookings, lunches, teas, etc., which boosts our fund-raising considerably. The Friends contributed \$7000 towards management costs recently.

The past two months have seen a huge volunteer contribution in the preparation and consolidation of the Lakes' beds and banks, which have been lined with clay, incorporating a sealing agent of bentonite, mined locally and generously donated by the mining company. Construction of a header pond is next, also with volunteer help. As a community-based project the Gardens rely heavily on support, from both the business and the private sectors, for the on-going progress of the development. We sincerely thank all who have contributed most generously.

### Margaret Hall

## Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide

**T**HE FRIENDS OF THE Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Inc. has had a long association with Victorian Botanic Gardens Friends groups, especially through the volunteer Garden Guides and, recently, through the Growing Group. We are delighted to have formalised this contact with our membership of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria). As this is our first contribution to *Campsis* I would like to give a brief introduction to the FBGA for other Members of the Association.

The FBGA was formed in 1977 with the aim of fostering interest in and raising funds for the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide. These gardens comprise the Adelaide Botanic Garden, close to the City, and the hills gardens of Mount Lofty and Wittunga, in all 198 hectares, each with quite diverse environments and plants. Over the years various groups have formed within the FBGA's organisation and these have together contributed in helping us to achieve our aims.

The Guides, who initially met with the Melbourne Guides as the nucleus for what is now the National Conference of Garden Guides, conduct walks in the three Gardens, supervise displays and prepare monthly self-guiding trails for each Garden. The Tours Committee during the past 20 years has been responsible for many visits in Adelaide, Australia and overseas. The Gazette Committee provides information and articles of interest for and about the Friends and the BGA. North Lodge Shop in the Adelaide Botanic Garden, allied with the Craft Group and maintained by approximately 100 volunteers, is our main source of revenue. The recently-formed Growing Group, based at the Mount Lofty Garden, propagates and grows plants for sale. As well, our members assist in the Herbarium and with displays and exhibitions.

The changes at the Adelaide Botanic Garden during the past year have been significant, and no less for the Friends. Yarrabee, a heritage house once used as the Director's residence and more recently as offices, by the Craft Group, and for exhibitions, has been gazetted to the International Wine Centre precinct, and the Transport buildings have been converted to the Administration Centre and the Plant Biodiversity Centre and State Herbarium. The former western Rose Garden is to become an Economic Garden, while the grounds of the ABG will be extended to Frame Road adjacent to Adelaide University. For the Guides, their duties and knowledge have of necessity expanded to new areas and collections, as have those of the Growing Group. North Lodge, built in 1865 for the ABG, has been renovated, the cost being met by the BGA Board and the Friends, with the entire cottage made available to us for at least the next two to three years as our Retail and Craft Centre. And, for our organisation, we now have an office in the Administration Centre that we have staffed and equipped, a significant move for us, encompassing computer technology, information and planning.

During this period of change our activities have continued, and have been well supported by our members. A Friends' preview of the International Rose Garden, with afternoon tea, was attended by nearly 200 people, and the day tours held during the past four months have been fully booked; in fact, the horticultural guided tour of the Zoological Gardens was repeated several times, such was the demand! Other activities have included a reunion of people who joined Tony Whitehill, the recently retired BGA Tree Advisory Officer, on the English Garden Tour in September, and meetings held in November, February and March with talks by Dr Tim Flannery, recently appointed Director of the South Australian Museum, Trevor Nottle, author and lecturer, and Guy Maron, architect for the ABG Bicentennial Conservatory. Preliminary plant sales were held by the Growing Group late last year as a lead into the first major sale to be held at North Lodge on 7 and 8 April. In early March a Celebration of Volunteers was held at Wittunga in conjunction with the introduction of the 'Naming Trail', a project funded by the FBGA and launched by the Minister for Environment and Heritage and for Volunteers, the Hon. Iain Evans. For the Guides autumn is a busy season, and this year is no exception. As well as the regular free walks in the three Gardens there are booked walks, tours of the

Government House grounds and bus tours through Mount Lofty Garden. Also, under the auspices of the BGA and involving the Guides and other FBGA, there is the launch at the Conservatory of a CD-ROM on Indonesian use of plants, and an extended Jeannie Baker exhibition and educational display.

## **Tommy Siekmann**

### **Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens**

**T**HE FRIENDS OF THE ANBG have enjoyed a busy and successful summer. In late November we held a 'Grazing in the Gardens' event in the early evening of daylight saving time. Beautiful weather graced our 3-course meal set in three locations of the Gardens for about 300 people, with a pleasant musical accompaniment in the background.

Throughout summer, January to mid-March, the Friends have co-sponsored the Summer Concert programme at weekends, when the Gardens have extended opening hours to 8 p.m. On Saturdays we have jazz concerts, on Sundays Twilight Serenade at a softer level. These concerts have attracted more than 5000 on Saturdays and up to 2000 on Sundays. A gold coin donation is requested and a generous response has been given; and, in addition, the Friends provide a wine table for those picnicking on the lawns. It has been a good summer.

Now, in the Federation Centenary Year, the Gardens is preparing for two special events, the Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens in April and the Guides conference at the end of October. The Friends are involved in the Gardens Congress as sponsors of one of the main events and volunteers will help with the running of the sessions as well as looking after delegates as they arrive in Canberra. The Guides conference from 29 October to 2 November will be our special responsibility as the Guides are a Friends' initiative within the Gardens. We expect that 200 delegates from around Australia will attend and registration forms have already gone out. We hope your members will come and share this very special time for appraisal and evaluation of our contribution to the public appreciation of all our Botanic Gardens.

## **Pauline Wicksteed**

### **Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens**

**T**HE PACE HAS BEEN FRENETIC since Curator John Arnott took office in October. Our ATCO building has become a horticultural and environment centre for the community. The meeting room has been revamped to accommodate the Gardens' library and is now used almost daily for meetings and training. John has a comfortable office, we have our office, botanic illustrator Enid Mayfield has space for her work and our Parks Manager has an office

John is a wonderful communicator and Friends and staff appreciate his open discussions about future directions for our Botanic Gardens. A Masterplan development workshop was held in December to

consider interpretive themes to guide the Stage One collections. As well as the work on Stage One great attention is being given to reviewing the existing Garden and again collections are the primary focus.

The Growing Friends have been encouraged to revamp their activities. An exciting new stock list has been compiled, which will focus on indigenous regional plants, low water, Botanic Gardens or more unusual stock. Wednesday morning sales will continue and special seasonal sales will be introduced. The Friends' nursery area is being redesigned and labels and fact sheets are being produced. We have a wonderful group of Friends contributing their expertise and time for these activities.

A new Voluntary Guide training course began on 2 April with 12 participants. John Arnott has helped with the new program, which has been overseen by Guide co-ordinator Rosemary Turner. Regular Guides will also contribute to the program.

Friends' activities are held each month. Since the last issue of *Campsis* we have welcomed three outstanding speakers with topics relevant to our Botanic Gardens. Margaret Polmear illustrated her talk on the regeneration of bush sites near Anglesea after wildfire with beautiful slides of the plants and the habitats. Christina Hindhaugh spoke about her overseas tour to study herbs, 'The Great Herb Tour'. This was followed by a basket lunch in the Gardens. We have also hosted Alex Shackleton, Wetlands Officer for the City of Greater Geelong, who described the wetlands in our region and the importance of the plants and birds that inhabit them.

The historic Hitchcock and Traill fountains in our Gardens now look magnificent after work by conservator Andrew Thorn. The restoration of these fountains was made possible by a Federation Grant to the Friends. They were 'opened' on 6 April.

Our focus for the next few months is the Association of Friends Conference 2001, *Bunce, Bunyas and Beyond*. We look forward to welcoming a great number of Friends to Geelong. Phone (03) 5222 6053 for further information.

## **Jayne Salmon**

**Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens  
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