



*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

**T**HE ASSOCIATION 2001 CONFERENCE 'Bunce, Bunyas and Beyond', held from 15 to 17 June, was a resounding success. Many letters of appreciation were received from among the 150 who attended, representing 35 gardens or organisations. The Conference Centre adjacent to the Geelong Botanic Gardens proved to be an excellent venue.

Sherryl Garbutt, Minister for Conservation and Environment, opened the Conference and spoke eloquently of the contribution made by volunteers and Friends groups to the community. Their value is understood by her Government and should never be taken for granted.

Those fortunate to be there found speaker Brian O'Neill quite inspirational as he shared his experiences and success in encouraging not-for-profit groups to establish partnerships in a community to achieve results. He emphasised that for a project to succeed there must be community investment, and not just Government funding. If the community was enthused, the project was relevant and the public would contribute and participate, the volunteer base would be strengthened. I encourage all Members of this Association to obtain a copy of Brian's excellent address.

Rob Small, General Manager of Environment and Recreation at the City of Greater Geelong, questioned the direction of many of our regional Gardens. There was, he said, an urgent need to refocus and make the Gardens relevant to today's communities. Conservation needed to be integrated and a focused educational initiative undertaken. Relevance was the key to survival and this would involve collaboration and partnerships.

Question time allowed participants to interrogate Brian and Rob on specific matters relating to individual Gardens. Then short presentations from representatives of three Friends groups related how partnerships were working in their Gardens.

Gwen Elliot, OAM, gave an international perspective of Botanic Gardens; John Arnott spoke about the diverse collections at the Geelong Gardens and the collection review being presently undertaken. Andrew Laidlaw, landscape planner at the RBG Melbourne, spoke of the importance of master-planning in managing a heritage landscape, and Jeff Floyd spoke about a Botanic Gardens trail and adding value to your Gardens.

The Conference was extremely challenging, the messages were profound, the boundaries extended and opportunities articulated. Many of our Friends groups went away with new resolve to align themselves with partners and to think more laterally when confronting the many difficult issues they face.

As reported in the previous issue of *Campsis*, the resolution to change the name of the Association by deleting the word '(Victoria)' and to alter the rules so that all Associate Members would become Association Members was agreed to unanimously at the annual meeting held in March. These changes came into effect when the Registrar of Incorporated Associations in Victoria gave his consent on 1 May.

At the Conference we welcomed two members of Friends of Parkside Botanic Gardens at Shepparton and have subsequently supported them with a submission to their local Council to retain their Gardens against a strong threat of development for housing.

Investigation into a website for the Association is continuing and this will be further considered at the next Committee meeting. A website will help to raise the profile of the Association and give us a presence in the wider marketplace. Profit from the recent Conference will help fund the website, which we hope to have in place early in the new year.

## Jayne Salmon

### Friends of the Ballarat Botanic Gardens

**I**T IS HARD TO BELIEVE that we are in the latter stages of 2001; however, this has been a rewarding year for our group. Our membership has increased by a third, and all our activities have been well supported.

At our annual meeting in May, Nancy Brauer spoke about 'The Passion of the Gardener'. Michael McCoy was a very popular speaker at our winter lunch and Suzanne Hunt from the Australian Garden History Society gave an excellent talk and showed slides on gardening over the last 100 years in Victoria. We had the Spring Garden Forum in September and we had a bus trip in October to see gardens in Mount Macedon.

The official launching of our education kit took place in May. We were pleased to have children from the Black Hill Primary School as our first official school group, as well as our Mayor, Councillor David Vandy. The installation of the Education Trail and the

launch of the kit heralded a new era in the use of our Gardens. We look forward to the trail being extended to encompass the Lake foreshore and Wetlands in the future.

The long-awaited opening of the Wetlands took place on a very cold, wet and miserable day in July. This was promptly followed by a serious sewage spill into the area. The installation of the Gross Pollutant trap and the need for the water to pass through three pools and other filters before entering Lake Wendou-ree saved the lake from a serious environmental disaster. The area was closed to the public for a month. This Wetlands area is a very special addition to the Gardens. There has been community involvement in the planting of the selected grasses and indigenous flora. The Growing Friends are now involved in propagating suitable plant material for this area and the Guides are training for special tours.

The Friends' current project is to continue with the planting of the western bed. Two sections have been completed during this spring — the mauve and grey colour-scheme collection and the 'hot' colour-scheme collection. The grasses section will be planted by the end of the year.

The Friends of the Statues Group is progressing well, with several sub-groups working on policy, statue cleaning and the 'Adopt a Statue' scheme.

During the winter months entry to the Conservatory has been free. This has proved to be very popular with visitors and locals alike. Tea and excellent coffee are available, and there is also a small shop.

The 2002 Begonia Festival will be held from the first of March until the 11th. The Growing Friends will be selling plants throughout the ten days, so do come to join us.

We are well on the way with our plans to be the principal hosts for the Association's 2002 Conference, which will take place in the late spring for a change. It will be during the week-end of 2 and 3 November, with the theme 'Living Gardens. Gardens for Life'. The concept for this Conference will be a little different from those of past Conferences, as it will include Buninyong, Daylesford and Castlemaine as well as Ballarat. On the Saturday we will have a feast of interesting speakers in Ballarat. Sunday will be spent visiting the other Botanic Gardens. Because there are now so many Members of the Association there will not be time to hear oral reports from several Members, so we will be asking every Member to provide a written report before the Conference, to be placed in the registration bags. There will also be facilities for displays on the Saturday. We do look forward to seeing many of your members in twelve months' time.

## **Joan Garner**

## **Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens**

**P**REPARATIONS ARE WELL IN HAND for the 'Federation Fair' to be held in the Gardens on Sunday, 18 November. It will be the biggest event ever held in our Gardens. Organisation for the Fair is in the capable hands of our new President, Billie Rowley, our Secretary Mandy King and Warrnambool City Council's Allan Murnane, Manager, Major

Events. We are thrilled at the community response, with some 70 groups taking part with displays and entertainment.

The Council has carried out substantial improvements to the rotunda in preparation for the Fair, so that the Friends can provide Devonshire teas and other refreshments during the day. We will also have a produce and plant stall. The Growing Friends held two successful garden days when hundreds of cuttings and small plants were potted up in readiness for the Fair.

Marie Johnstone has been writing a history of the Friends, which will be a very thorough account of all our activities since 1989. Publication will be considered later in the year.

A film luncheon was held in August, the Friends making a profit of \$1,057.

The fernery has recently undergone a replanting programme under the skilful guidance of Lorraine Deppeler of Bush-House Nursery, Allansford. Many new Otway Ranges ferns have been planted and the large tree-ferns that were growing through the roof have been cut back and replanted successfully.

We received a Parks Victoria grant of \$3,560 'to preserve the heritage of the Guilfoyle-designed Warrnambool Botanic gardens'. This will go towards the database and labelling of trees.

John Hawker, of Heritage Victoria, recently met Friends and Gardens staff to discuss the ongoing development of the Gardens.

Our annual meeting was held in July, when William Martin was our speaker. His interesting and provocative presentation brought forth new and challenging ideas. Marie Ziebell spoke to us for the last time as President — she is retiring after three years, but fortunately is remaining as a member of the committee. We thanked her for her particularly important achievements over the past years, not the least of which was taking the overall responsibility for the Association's Conference held here in 1999.

## **Marigold Curtis**

## **Friends of Albury Botanic Gardens**

**O**UR FIRST MAJOR GARDENS PROJECT reached fruition on Tuesday 9 October, just four weeks short of our fifth anniversary. Albury's Mayor, Cr Patricia Gould, accepted our cheque for \$10,000, donated towards the manufacture, erection and planting out of our new rose garden and arbours. The project will be completed over the next twelve months.

On Sunday 14 October our Friends group held its fourth spring plant sale. That was in fact our seventh sale, and they are the major source of our fund-raising. The other is catering for visiting groups such as the Iris Convention morning tea in the Gardens, on 28 October.

Policy-makers at the Albury City Council have recently re-organised the grading and positioning of Gardens staff. This has led to our popular and dedicated Curator, Paul Scannell, being given a new title and portfolio. Fortunately for us, he will continue as Secretary and many more groups of Friends may

benefit from his knowledge and experience. We all wish him the best of luck in his new career path.

Belated, but nevertheless very sincere, congratulations from the Albury Friends who were at the Geelong Conference to Jayne Salmon and her group. It was such a friendly, interesting and well-fed Conference. We are now looking forward to Ballarat in November 2002.

**Jeff Gates**

### **Friends of Camperdown Botanic Gardens**

**T**HE CAMPERDOWN FRIENDS is a very small group of elderly ladies which seldom meets. We have not tried to become incorporated but do have an ABN to help apply for grants.

We have held three 'Arts in the Park' days this year, including the Federation Picnic. We presented trees to the relatives of past curators and gardeners of the park, to be planted close to the Botanic Gardens.

Next year we are planning 'Celebrating the Life of Robbie Burns' at Arts in the Park on Sunday 27 January, and a Wattle Day celebration on 31 August.

We have very little dialogue with Corangamite Shire. We hope this will improve with a change of staff, but too many staff changes in a short time have made the gardeners themselves very frustrated. We have had contact with the Warrnambool Friends, who have been very helpful indeed.

We hope to be a stronger group one of these days so that we can participate on a more active level.

**Audrey van den Berg**

### **Greater Shepparton Botanic Garden Association**

**W**E GREATLY APPRECIATE the support given to us in our quest to retain the Parkside Gardens beautiful site here at Shepparton.

We submitted an excellent proposal to the Council in July for a 21st Century Gardens to be developed at the site, with its wonderful existing infrastructure, waterways, flora and fauna. Our submission met all the criteria set out by the Council, and only one other proposal was made. That was for a residential development of 80 house lots within the boundary of the moat surrounding the garden area. We have since learned that the two submissions will not be put on public exhibition, so there will be much more hard work and words needed to change the Council mind-set. We will forge on and hope soon to have more positive news.

**Pat Moran**

### **Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens**

**A**S WITH MANY OTHER FRIENDS GROUPS we have realised that by establishing a propagation programme we can give our members an activity they will all enjoy. At the same time they will be promoting the Gardens to the wider community. Hamilton Botanic Gardens staff currently allow us space in their glasshouse for propagation, but enthusiasm for this new project is running strong and we are bursting at the seams.

So it has recently been a real boost to our morale to secure a 'Small Equipment for Volunteers' grant, which enabled us to purchase a shade-house and other essentials, so allowing us to maintain high-quality stock throughout the year. Our first sale for the year will co-incide with the start of the Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Music programme in December, and we hope it will be the forerunner of many more.

Encouraged by the success of the last application we have now set our sights on the Local History Grants Scheme to upgrade the presentation of our Gardens' well-documented history. In this project R.M.I.T. should prove to be an invaluable ally, providing the expertise and encouragement to go beyond our region's limitations.

**Jenny Kane**

### **Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide**

**W**HEN DR COLLIN ROBJOHNS and his colleagues formed the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide in 1977 they put in place a constitution and structure that have served us well in support of our Gardens. Now, with recent changes, we have been reassessing our procedures. Some of these changes have come from outside, as with the rewriting of our Constitution to meet revised legalities and with adjustments to financial reporting to conform with GST requirements. However, we are also responding to changes within the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide. Early this year Dr Brian Morley retired as Director of the Gardens and Mr Colin Harris, from the Department of Environment and Heritage, was appointed Acting Director. During his tenure he provided excellent liaison between the Friends and the Board at meetings, and informally. Mr Stephen Forbes has now been appointed Director of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide, taking office in early October. With high credentials in environmental management and botanical, conservation and landscape management research and senior experience at the Royal Sydney Botanic Gardens and King's Park, Western Australia, since his arrival Stephen is evident throughout the Gardens as he talks with members of the Board, staff and Friends at Mount Lofty, Wittunga and Adelaide. Another recent appointment is that of the Marketing Manager, Kym Cheek, who is learning rapidly about Friends' organisations in this Year of Volunteers. We are looking forward to our association with Stephen and Kym and also with recently-appointed Board members Professor Robert Hill, the Head of Science at the South

Australian Museum, and Ms Diane Hall, Director of a South Australian horticultural firm. The Board is seeking to formalise its association with the Friends through a Memorandum of Understanding and a preliminary draft has been prepared for consideration.

The Friends' Finance Committee has been reconstituted, and reports regularly. An early task was for a review of procedures for gifting to the Gardens and the recommendations were adopted by the Friends' Committee in April. Our office is proving invaluable, administratively and as an information centre, and there are plans and sufficient volunteers to form a Computer Data Entry group to maintain and extend our electronic records and to update our website.

Apart from this, the usual activities of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide continue. The Tours Group, with the able support of Dr Brian Morley, has continued its programme of tours and weekend trips to South Australian gardens. These have been well supported, often with waiting lists. As a winter supplement to the tours, several video and tea afternoons were held and, as always, attracted full houses. In October a Hills day trip was combined with a special Gondwana walk at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden, organised and conducted by the Guides. The Gondwana theme was also presented at the Adelaide Botanic Garden with a very successful 'Walking with Green Dinosaurs' guided tour, soon to be repeated for the information of the Garden apprentices. Walks are currently being planned to celebrate Encounter 2002 next year, the bicentenary of the exploration and mapping of South Australia's coastline by Flinders and Baudin.

Early this year, with the loss of historic Yarrabee to the Wine Centre and the refurbishment of the Museum of Economic Botany, there seemed to be no longer a venue for art exhibitions at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens. Despite these difficulties, and with considerable flair and ingenuity, the Jeannie Baker exhibition was mounted in the vacant space at the rear of the Tram Barn and for two months attracted many visitors, including 4,000 students from schools throughout South Australia. There was excellent response from the Friends to the request for staffing during that time, a response that was repeated on World Environment Day on 5 June. Under the direction of the Gardens Education Officer, the Guides staffed eleven stations in the ABG and showed how essential plants are in the world environment to 1,200 schoolchildren and their teachers who visited the Garden on that day.

Following the April Plant Sale held by the Growing Group at North Lodge Shop there has been a continuing sale of plants from the table outside North Lodge. All costs incurred in the setting up and initial running of the Group's activities have been covered and the Group continues to attract enthusiastic volunteers. The Spring Plant Sale and Handicraft Exhibition held at North Lodge early in October was a joint venture, with plants propagated by the Growing Group and work made by the Craft Group. Despite the wet weather, the interest and sales were constant during the weekend, and the Growing Group planned another joint venture with the South Australian Rhododendron Society at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden later in October.

To end the year we are planning a (fruit) Bats and Botany Barbecue at Mount Lofty in early December, this to be a precursor to a celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Mount Lofty Garden to the public on 8 November 1977 and of the launching there and on that date of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide by Dr Collin Robjohns and his colleagues.

**Tommie Siekmann**

## **Friends of Burnley Gardens**

**T**HIS YEAR WE HAVE CONCENTRATED on running a seminar for beginner gardeners called *All Thumbs to Green Thumbs* as the main function. It was held over the weekend of 25 and 26 August, and was attended by about 80 very enthusiastic and interested participants. We had extremely good speakers and covered topics including garden design, water-wise gardening, selected plants for period homes, soil and the creative use of perennials. The seminar had a practical component which we would like to follow up at a later date. It was our most successful and ambitious event to date.

On Sunday 21 October 3CR, the community radio station, held their annual picnic at Burnley Gardens. The weather was beautiful and between 60 and 70 people turned out for a barbecue lunch and to listen to the Burnley College Principal, Dr Greg Moore, speak on the history of the College in his very entertaining manner. This was followed by guided tours of the Gardens, and a cup of tea. We were most grateful to 3CR for organising this event and it was a most pleasant day. It is amazing how few people realise that these Gardens are for public use and are open each day for people to use. Most are surprised by the historical nature of much of the planting and the extent and beauty of this site of over 8 hectares within 4 kilometres of the city centre.

A newly-elected Committee will take us into the new year with a continuing programme of monthly speakers. We have had some very interesting speakers over the year and keep our prices as low as possible so that these meetings are very accessible. Some of the topics have been *Looking for Rhododendrons in North Vietnam*, *British Meadow Planting*, *Kew Gardens*, *A Summer Bird-spotting Stroll* and *Flora and Fauna of the Galapagos*.

We are hoping next year that a Gardens Manager will be appointed. It has been difficult to organise projects and working bees this year with the position of Gardens Manager unfilled over the entire year, but we did manage one very successful day of weeding and mulching in the native grasses area. Also, some people are helping as volunteers in the Gardens. Can there be a better place to work?

**Margaret Donald**

## Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens

WE HELD OUR ANNUAL MEETING on 21 October, and regretfully do not have a full committee, with no President or Vice-President elected. Since receiving a grant from Parks Victoria we have been designing a brochure to promote our historic Gardens and ourselves. November will be a busy time, with the Festival of Gardens, during which we are holding a Guided Tour with Wine and Cheese, plus a plant stall. We will also be taking a group of young Girl Guides through the Gardens and, later in November, we look forward to seeing Friends of the St Arnaud Gardens for a tour and afternoon tea. With the recent news of a successful application through the International Year of the Volunteer we can look forward to being seated in comfort at our meetings and social gatherings on new cloth-covered seating chairs.

**Trish Addis**

## Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

A NEW APPROACH HAS BEEN DEvised to deal with the Grey-headed Flying-foxes that are causing serious damage in the RBG Melbourne. In an unprecedented urban wildlife management experiment, an attempt will be made to create an artificial flying-fox campsite in an isolated part of Wilson Reserve on the Yarra River at Ivanhoe. Some of the RBG colony will be trapped and taken to enclosures at Ivanhoe. It is hoped that, given the gregarious nature of flying-foxes, the caged animals will attract free-flying bats and a new roost will be set up.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Melbourne Zoo, the Gardens, community conservation groups and the RSPCA will all be involved in this exercise. Meanwhile, in the Fern Gully, trials are being conducted to assess the effectiveness of a deterrent spray and noise-generating electronic systems.

The Victorian Government has granted \$1.2 million to enable preparatory works to be undertaken for the Australian Garden at RBG Cranbourne. Another exciting project is also moving forward, with a Ministerial launch in mid-November of draft plans for The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden. The Friends financed a trip to the USA in July for RBG Landscape Architect Andrew Laidlaw to attend a symposium and visit eight children's gardens. Andrew's subsequent talk to the Friends illustrated the great popularity of such gardens and their potential for pleasurable environmental education experiences.

Scarlet Blaze, the blood-red Cinnamon Wattle (*Acacia leprosa*) discovered in forest north-east of Melbourne and propagated at the RBG, has been produced in commercial quantities by Plant Growers Australia and released for sale. Several specimens have been planted behind the Herbarium. The wattle is Victoria's emblem for the Centenary of Federation, and royalties from its sale will provide support for the RBG's plant conservation programs.

The propagation glasshouse, whose construction was financed by the Helen Johns bequest to the Friends' Trust Fund, is now in use at the RBG nursery. A second new building to house potting facilities and offices will be ready by the end of the year. These improvements will be of benefit to the Growing Friends. Once again the Growing Friends achieved an astonishing result at their October sale, raising a net figure of \$26,758. More than 20 people took up our offer of a free catalogue by joining the Friends at the sale. In common with many organisations, we find that while we gain new Members each year, this increase is cancelled out by those who fail to renew, resign or, unfortunately, die. We need many new Members if we are to sustain our financial support for the Gardens.

'House full' signs went up for outstanding illustrated talks by Judith Zuk from New York, Prof. Guan Kaiyun from China's Yunnan Province and Peter Valder from Sydney. (If you would like a copy of Peter's notes on visiting Paris gardens by public transport, send an sae and \$5 to the Friends' office.) Other excellent talks were given by Margaret Corrick and Bruce Fuhrer on *Wildflowers of Victoria*; by Margaret Hancock on *The Wives of Victoria's Governors 1839-1900*; by Dale McDonnell on *Hellebores* and by Neil Robertson on *The Open Garden Scheme for 2001-02*. Dr Sophie Ducker's talk on the floral emblems of Australia was a rare treat from this active 92-year-old authority on the history of botany in Australia. (Copies of Dr Ducker's talk are available, also, from our office.) We welcomed three Herbarium botanists – Neville Walsh, Liz James and Frank Udovicic – for a stimulating account of their research. We intend to offer regular talks on scientific subjects in response to Members' suggestions from our survey earlier this year.

RBG staff provided us with insights into the revegetation of the Long Island area and of the Education Services at our quarterly 'Insiders' mornings. We enjoyed a fund-raising sale of Rebecca Trinca's botanically-inspired ceramics in July, and promoted the Friends at Stonnington Council's *Spring into Gardening* event in October. Day trips were made to the ANGAIR Wildflower Show and Geelong Botanic Gardens, to private gardens and nurseries in the Dandenongs, and to RBG Cranbourne with morning tea at Beverley Sutherland Smith's garden.

The Botanical Illustrators were privileged to visit the studio of artist Criss Canning at Ascot in August. They are planning a sale of small unframed works on 27 November, and have produced a Christmas card for the Friends, both 'firsts'. The Gardens Shop is hoping for great Christmas sales with its own branded cards, delicious gourmet jams, chutney, sauces and dressings, a calendar depicting Australia's three royal botanic gardens, and the new history of RBG Melbourne, published by Allen & Unwin.

The Friends will celebrate Christmas at a drinks party at Gardens House on 29 November, and are looking forward to their 20th birthday next year. The RBG Voluntary Guides notched up their 20th anniversary in October, a particularly appropriate achievement in this International Year of the Volunteer.

The Minister for Conservation and Environment, the Hon. Sherryl Garbutt, addressed the Friends annual meeting on 12 November. Three long-serving Members – Lawrence Cohn, Louise Coronel and Heather

Ironmonger – retired from the Council. Janet Thomson was elected Vice-President and also an honorary life member. Susan Brookes and Judy Jarman joined the Council.

## Heather Ironmonger

### Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens

SINCE OUR LAST REPORT to Campsis the Friends have continued their routine of regular guided walks on the first Sunday of the month and the numbers of those attending are steadily growing. The walks are led by Friends and have a different theme each month. They coincide with the monthly working bees and this enables the walkers to see the Friends happily at work. The current project, nearing completion, is a native grasses display area. This is on a hillock and has required the building of concentric terraced beds and gravel paths, as well as some professional bluestone work.

The Friends' committee has hosted two soirées, in autumn and spring, and these functions have provided an opportunity for Friends to meet in a relaxed atmosphere in the Gardens. We have invited key personnel from the Orange City Council (who own the Gardens) to talk of their vision for the Gardens. We are currently addressing the issue of establishing a Gardens Management Committee and defining the relationship between the Friends, the Gardens Supervisor and the Council.

A logo has been designed for the Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens. This will be used on stationery, shirts and labels for our plant stalls. This will increase awareness of our group, and its activities, in the community. As a promotional tool we have also taken advantage of the website established by Rural Press for the local community and set up a club page that describes the Gardens and the activities of the Friends. It is at [www.orange.yourguide.com.au](http://www.orange.yourguide.com.au).

Over the past several months we were preparing for the third Central West Garden and Outdoor Expo, held on 4 November, with the assistance of other community groups such as the Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens. An attendance of approximately 4000 was expected; the proceeds would go to the Gardens and local charities. Funds from this source so far have contributed to developing a new entrance path with wheelchair access and also garden seats. Friends organised a talks programme (nine local speakers on horticultural and environmental issues) and staffed the gates, provided morning teas and ran a plant stall, many of the items having been propagated by our Growing Friends..

In March the Friends will host a lecture/luncheon, our special guest being the renowned botanist and author Dr Peter Valder. This will be a fund-raising, educational and social event. We have also raised money by catering for small functions held by other groups in the Gardens and by selling refreshments at Open Gardens in our district.

In June our former President, Sina Wright, and Gardens Supervisor, Neil Bottinger, attended the annual Association Conference in Geelong. They

found it interesting and enjoyable, and brought back lots of ideas for the Friends to consider.

## Patricia Bannatyne

### Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens

SPRING IS SUCH AN INVIGORATING TIME of the year! On the very first day of spring our Friends were out at the Gardens and wearing the Green and Gold in ribbons and sprigs of wattle. The occasion? National Wattle Day. Celebrations included wattle walks, music, songs and drama by the Coomealla High School Performers, an art exhibition and demonstration by Elizabeth Phillips, morning and afternoon tea, lunch, tractor train tours and much conviviality.

Brimming lakes are now a feature of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens after substantial inputs of volunteer manpower and in-kind donations of specialist advice, machinery operations, bentonite, pipes and header ponds for supply of an intricate system of streams. This is yet another example of the generosity and community spirit that continues to benefit our Gardens, in this case complementing a Commonwealth Federation Grant. The official 'opening' of the lakes and streams took place on 28 October, our spring open day.

On 22 September the Friends took part in a colourful street parade in Mildura, riding in our popular tractor train in celebration of the United Nations International Year of Volunteers.

An 'appreciation dinner' was held recently by the AIBG committee of management and new honour boards displayed. These acknowledge the substantial monetary donations of patrons who enabled the establishment of the Gardens eleven years ago, and others who continue to play a vital role in further expansion.

Exciting news for all who are dedicated to promoting our Gardens is the recent formal identification of several trees in the remnant native flora as being of significant ages. One oil mallee tree, *Eucalyptus oleosa*, has multiple stems around 650-700 years old, and its lignotuber around 2500 years old. Nearby three *Callitris preissii* var. *murrayensis*, Murray pines, are of the same ages as the *E. oleosa* stems, indicating some effectual event such as devastating weather conditions, flood or fire followed by centuries of suitable conditions. River red gums on the 'river site' are also considered worthy of heritage listing, the oldest being 800-900 years old.

Thinning of the *E. citriodora* along the entrance drive will begin soon, as was planned eleven years ago. The close spacing has resulted in uniformly straight trunks and a striking approach to the centre of the Gardens while the trees were young. Now they are competing with each other and it's time to proceed with thinning to allow side branches to develop.

A 'mystery' Gardens tour and lunch within Sunraysia was arranged for 10 November and the AGM on 21 November had the traditional picnic tea before the 8 pm meeting.

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

**T**HE FRIENDS ASSISTED THE ORGANISERS as volunteers at the Gardens 2001 Congress, hosted by the Australian National Botanic Gardens in April. The Gardens' Exhibition of Australian Floral Emblems was opened in April and continues in the Visitor Information Centre. The Guides have continued to lead walks daily at 11 am and 2 pm through the Gardens for the visiting public, as well as booked walks (i.e., mainly from tour buses). The new Tropical Glasshouse and Orchid House, now open to the public from 10 am to 3 pm daily, have been popular with visitors. An enthusiastic team planned for the annual Guides Conference in Canberra from 29 October to 2 November and the Friends provided financial support for all the ANBG Guides attending. During Floriade many interstate and international visitors visited the Gardens, which were looking wonderful with the waratahs, grevilleas and banksias and many other genera in full flower. Friends have enjoyed activities such as a most successful visit to Grenfell in September.

The Friends, with a membership of around 1100, have continued to support the Gardens with donations of \$20,000 yearly for selected projects put forward by Gardens' staff. Projects supported have included: development of an Interpretive Strategy for an Art and Craft Program in the Gardens; ANBG website development of a Fungal Information Service; and a Palm Colony in the Rainforest Gully. Friends also assisted at the celebrations for a damp but enjoyable Wattle Day, which included an ABC broadcast and a Citizenship Ceremony, with performances by a local school choir and two bands.

The Growing Friends have met monthly and continued their work of propagation for the biannual plant sales; the April sale raised \$2994 for the Friends. The next will be on 24 November. The Annual Photographic Competition based on our Gardens for secondary schools and colleges attracted many entries and the Friends awarded \$2400 in prizes to the winners of the various sections. Our annual dinner, 'Grazing in the Gardens', will be on Saturday 1 December for Friends and the public in three lovely locations, with great food and good music. In January and February, as part of the ANBG Summer Program, the Friends will again sponsor the Saturday Jazz on the Eucalypt Lawn and also Sunday Serenade on the Café Lawn. Lots of fun for everyone!

**Margaret Mansfield**

## **From the Secretary**

**I** THANK THOSE MEMBERS of the Association who have contributed to this issue of *Campsis*, which has been held for a few days so that copies of the Proceedings of the 2001 Conference could be sent at the same time to Members not represented at the Conference.

Members were invited some time ago to write saying whether they would wish to have details of their

Friends groups included, or perhaps be the subject of 'links', in the proposed website. I am glad to say that many of you have responded and it is now possible to go further into the detail of what will be shown on the website. We have received the generous offer of Judith Bailey of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanic Gardens to undertake the actual preparation of the website, which she will now be able to do.

**Lawrence Cohn**

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Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens Inc.

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Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Garden P  
O Box 2809, Mildura, Vic, 3502Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens  
Inc. GPO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT, 2601

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc. P

O Box 33W, Ballarat West, Vic, 3353

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens Inc.

P O Box 589, Benalla, Vic, 3671

Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens

P O Box 117, Strathdale, Vic, 3500

Friends of Burnley Gardens Inc. C/o Burnley College,  
500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond, Vic, 3121Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Inc. P  
O Box 391, Castlemaine, Vic, 3450

Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens.

C/o J.Todorovic, 225 Colac-Lavers Hill Road,  
Elliminyt, Vic, 3249

Friends of the Darwin Botanic Gardens Inc.

P O Box 36435, Winnellie, NT, 0821

Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens  
Inc. P O Box 1068, Batemans Bay, NSW, 2536

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc.

P O Box 235, Geelong, Vic, 3220

Friends of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens Inc.

P O Box 564, Gisborne, Vic, 3437

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc.

P O Box 43, Hamilton, Vic, 3300

Friends of Karwarra Australian Plant Garden Inc. 1

Toorak Road, Mt Dandenong, Vic, 3767

Friends of Mansfield Botanic Park

P O Box 201, Mansfield, Vic, 3722

Friends of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden

P O Box 8644, Alice Springs, NT, 0871

Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens

P O Box 17, Orange, NSW, 2800

Friends of the Palmetum Inc. (Townsville)

P O Box 1729, Aitkenvale, Qld, 4814.

Friends of the Port Fairy Botanical Gardens

P O Box 229, Port Fairy, Vic, 3284

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

Inc. 23 Swan Road, Murrumbeena, Vic, 3163

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne,  
Vic, 3004

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney Inc.

Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Inc.

C/o RTBG, Queen's Domain, Hobart, Tas, 7000

Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens 14

Navarre Road, St Arnaud, Vic, 3478

Friends of the Grounds, The University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic, 3052

Friends of The Waite Arboretum. C/o The Waite

Arboretum, The University of Adelaide – Waite

Campus, Glen Osmond, SA, 5064

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc.

P O Box 1190, Warrnambool, Vic, 3280

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc.

P O Box 412, Berwick, Vic, 3806

Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens

P O Box 267, Daylesford, Vic, 3460

Greater Shepparton Gardens Association Inc.

5 Gina Court, Shepparton, Vic, 3630

The Tasmanian Arboretum Inc.

P O Box 370, Devonport, Tas, 7310