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Beverley Graham 1994

Campsis

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From the President

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING on Friday 5 April I was pleased to accept the nomination of President. Jayne Salmon then became the Immediate Past President and on behalf of all the Member Friends' groups I take this opportunity to thank her for her guidance and interest over the past nine years. She was our inaugural President in April 1993 and has continued as a member of the Committee since then, becoming President again in April 2000. Her rôle as President of the Geelong Friends has been an inspiration to us all, and now after many years of hard work Jayne and her team are seeing their wishes for the Geelong Gardens coming to fruition.

I am delighted to say that Lawrence Cohn will be continuing as Secretary, and I know you will all agree with me that this is very good news indeed.

The 2002 Conference of the Association will be hosted by the Ballarat, Buninyong, Daylesford and Castlemaine Friends groups on 2 and 3 November. The Saturday will provide a feast of interesting speakers and will take place in Ballarat, with the Conference dinner in the evening. The Sunday will be spent visiting Buninyong, Daylesford and Castlemaine Botanic Gardens. Pre- and post-Conference activities will be available. We are looking forward to seeing you all in November.

The Association website will become a reality very soon. We will have much more news about this in our next *Campsis*.

A 'Gardens 2002 Symposium' was held in Ballarat during the Begonia Festival in March. This inaugural symposium was initiated by the curators of regional and rural Botanic Gardens in the wake of the massive changes associated with competitive tendering and local government restructure. The aim is to form a long-term network that will provide access to training, specialist advice, information exchange and volunteer development. Friends groups can play an important part in helping the curators to succeed in their aims. There were members of several Friends groups at the symposium and it was agreed by all to be an important move forward in providing help to our many small but botanically and culturally significant gardens.

I am particularly pleased to welcome our newest Member, the Friends of the Portland Botanic Gardens.

Joan Garner

Friends of Portland Botanic Gardens

THE FRIENDS IN PORTLAND, VICTORIA, now have an inaugural Committee up and running. We have lots of enthusiasm on our side, but not much else, especially money! Our first newsletter is about to be distributed and will include a membership enrolment form, which we hope will help with funds.

At our inaugural meeting Joan Garner, President of the Ballarat Friends, spoke on the functions of a Friends group. Ian Rossiter, the manager of the Ballarat Gardens, then addressed us on relationships between Councils and Friends groups. We were so very grateful for both Joan's and Ian's input, help, and advice, and for the journey they had to make to come to us.

Our Council, the Glenelg Shire Council, has received a grant of \$20,000, earmarked for a conservation study and a masterplan for our gardens, which is very exciting.

I have been appointed Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Jenn Collett

Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens

PRESENTLY THERE ARE 88 MEMBERS of the Friends of the St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens. Given the town population of 3000, our large membership shows the enthusiasm and pride shown in our gardens.

Some years ago, Council adopted a restoration plan by Kevin Walsh and appointed a local management committee to oversee its implementation. The Friends work closely with this management committee, providing funds for trees, shrubs, etc, and helping with working bees where needed.

During 2001 a hedge was planted along McMahon and Millett Streets in line with the Walsh plan. A tree to commemorate 100 years of Federation was planted by the Mayor, Cr Colin Hall, and his wife.

This year the Friends will complete the lighting program with two more old cast-iron gas lamp standards, which are being prepared for installation. One of the major projects this year will be to identify and provide name plaques for the trees in the garden.

Our major fundraiser each year is a Garden Gala Day, held in autumn. We set up plant and produce stalls and Devonshire teas are served on the sunny

verandah of the historic Mechanics Institute. We have stalls for water testing, locally-made produce such as olive oil, eucalyptus oils and lavender. Old-fashioned roses are displayed by a local nursery, Canopy Lane Nursery. The raffle of outdoor furniture is very popular and this year we auctioned house and garden 'treasures' from the back of an old truck. The day is very well supported by the community and we raised over \$2900 this year — well worth the effort!

Victoria Radford, Secretary

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

'FEDERATION FAIR', HELD IN THE Gardens on 18 November was a resounding success, in fact more people from Warrnambool and district came to the Gardens to join in the fun than ever before. More than 70 community organisations and charities participated. Planning and liaising with these groups proved worthwhile and has done much to lift the profile of the Gardens. We believe that more than 3000 people came to the Fair, although it is difficult to estimate numbers in a moving group. The Friends held a large plant stall and a produce stall. They also served Devonshire teas and other refreshments throughout the day, clearing over \$3000 for their efforts.

We used a large proportion of the Federation grant for the provision of tents and marquees, which proved fortunate as the weather was not kind to us. Indeed, it rained heavily the night before and at times during the day, but this did not dampen people's spirits. The Gardens were at their colourful best and everyone agreed that they were the perfect place in which to celebrate the Centenary of Federation.

In February we again participated in Wunta Festival's 'Jazz in the Gardens' by providing Devonshire teas. We raised approximately \$300. This annual event attracts a great number of young people.

The Ballarat Symposium for Curators of Botanic Gardens was attended on the first day by Terry O'Sullivan, our Superintendent of Parks & Gardens, and three of Council's gardening staff and on the second day by four Friends. The symposium was most informative and a great opportunity for networking with other Councils and curators.

The Guiding Friends have been very active. In addition to the regular fortnightly walks we took two groups of 50 YMCA Holiday Program children through the Gardens. On both occasions games here held, such as measuring the girth of the oldest Monterey Cypress, 13 metres, and the height of the tallest Mexican Fan Palm, over 20 metres, now known as the 'Sky Duster'!

The Growing Friends held a very successful plant stall in March. Included were plants originally grown for Federation Fair, now well established, plants for hedging and perennial borders, and a variety of bulbs. \$315 was raised. Because of the interest shown we plan to hold a plant sale every spring and autumn.

Marigold Curtis

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS are looking forward to the opening of the new extension to the Gardens in the middle of the year. The extension towards Eastern Beach provides wonderful views across Corio Bay and incorporates a new entrance drive that displays flora from the Geelong region. A new Botanic Gardens entrance is reached via wide steps that lead to a broad path around a large elliptical sunken garden. The new extension almost doubles the size of the existing garden. Planting in the new area began early in the year when large trees from the existing garden were moved into a new area. *Chorisia speciosa*, *Podocarpus falcatus*, *Brachychiton populneum*, *Dracaena draco*, 3 *Nolinas*, various palms and 5 *Brachychiton rupestris* were planted near the entrance steps. The trees were dug up with a giant mechanical spade and lowered into their new positions by crane. Green Corps workers have been helping Gardens staff with mass planting of indigenous species along the new entrance driveway and planting is about to begin on the banks leading down into the sunken garden. Plantings will include plants from the Geelong region (Anglesea, Brisbane Ranges, Bellarine Peninsula), garden plants suitable for growing in Geelong, drought-tolerant plants and Gondwana plantings.

The Friends have had a very busy start to the year, with various activities being held in the Gardens. A very successful twilight Jazz evening was held in mid-February, a lecture titled 'Charismatic Orchid' was given by Gardens horticulturist Kellee Reissinger at a twilight meeting, and the weekend autumn plant sale was held at the beginning of March. Curator John Arnott has taken a large group of Friends on a behind-the-scenes nursery tour, three of our Friends attended the Victorian Regional Gardens Symposium at Ballarat and funded registration for Gardens staff to attend, and a coachload of Friends attended the recent Gardens Expo in Melbourne.

Friends have assisted Gardens staff with talks to community groups. There is much interest in the new garden and many requests for speakers. Voluntary Guides have been busy with booked walks during recent weeks.

Our A.G.M. was held on 22 April, and I was delighted to report that the past year was one of excitement and progress, and that there has been great co-operation between Friends and Gardens staff. The year was most successful financially, with plant sales being our greatest source of income.

Jayne Salmon, President

Friends of Burnley Gardens

ON THE OAK LAWN, on a balmy evening in March, Rod Quantock delighted members and guests with his amusing stories of growing up — his efforts at gardening, at architecture studies, and his life generally. Some members of the Boroondara Symphonic Band provided musical background. Money raised from the evening has added to our fund for projects in the gardens.

Unfortunately, Melbourne University has not yet appointed a Gardens manager, more than 12 months after the previous manager resigned. One full-time gardener and contract staff carry out regular works, but no new projects have been undertaken. The Friends group is particularly frustrated about this situation.

At our April meeting guest speaker Michelle Adler chose as her topic 'Can Gardens survive for Centuries?' This was particularly pertinent to the future of our 150-year-old Burnley Gardens. Members present at the meeting were urged to pass on their concern for the Gardens to the community generally and the horticultural groups particularly. We take this opportunity in *Campsis*.

Helen Page, from the Australian Garden History Society, will address our next meeting at the Burnley College on Wednesday 8 May at 7.30 pm.

A working bee will be held on Saturday morning 1 June. How much work will we have to do?

Kay Airst, Chairperson

Friends of the Castlemaine Gardens

THE YEAR 2002 HAS SEEN THE LAUNCH of our new brochure, which is now available at the Visitors' Information Centre, as well as other relevant venues. Last November, on a freezing morning, we held a garden stall at the annual Garden Market.

We have commissioned Kevin Walsh to create a Masterplan for the redevelopment of the Rose Garden. It badly needs attention, and it would have been wonderful to have the roses and memorials correctly named and displayed for the enjoyment and education of the visiting members of the public. We have started a visitor survey, which we will conduct throughout the year to ascertain necessary information for grant applications. Friends are looking forward to being part of the Conference in November, and hope to be able to introduce many other Friends to our heritage-listed Gardens.

Trish Addis, Secretary

Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE PAST SIX MONTHS was the third Central West Garden and Outdoor Expo on 4 November at the Orange Botanic Gardens. This was organised by Rotary Club of Orange (Daybreak) with the assistance of the Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens and other community groups. The attendance exceeded 4000, helped by a beautiful sunny day, and financial success was assured. Proceeds are going to the Gardens and local charities. Funds from this source so far have been 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), staffed the gates, produced morning teas and ran a plant stall, many of the items having been propagated by our Growing Friends. Another popular feature was the early morning bird walks, led by Bernie and Colina Huxtable (also

Friends), who have been doing regular bird surveys since 1990. We are already preparing for this year's Expo, to be held on 3 November.

Friends have continued their routine of regular guided walks on the first Sunday of the month and the number of persons attending is growing steadily. The walks are led by Friends and have a different theme each month, concentrating on various plant groups, botanical features (e.g., bark), or wildlife and its relationship to the plantings. By arrangement, we also conduct walks for special groups visiting the Gardens. The monthly working bees, which coincide with the regular guided walks, will soon be starting work on upgrading our demonstration pome fruit orchard, a unique feature of the Gardens. This collection, which includes heritage varieties, was established as a historical record, recognising the fact that Orange has been a major apple-growing area for over 150 years.

On 14 March the Friends hosted a lecture and luncheon, our guest being the renowned botanist and author Dr Peter Valder. Peter delivered a fascinating well-illustrated talk on 'The Garden Plants of China', pointing out to us how many of our common garden plants are of Chinese origin, and also indicating their cultural and social significance. A copy of Peter's book of the same title was raffled, and this boosted our profits for the day. Overall it was a most successful fund-raising, educational and social event.

In October an Adventure Playground is to be built, as a community-based project, on Council land adjacent to the Gardens. This is likely to bring many more visitors to the area (which is on the outskirts of town), with some, we hope, taking the opportunity to visit the Gardens as well.

Patricia Bannatyne, Honorary Secretary

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

WE CELEBRATED THE 20TH BIRTHDAY of the Friends with pride and pleasure on 14 March. Beth Higgs, who initiated our group, and Sir Ninian Stephen, our current President, planted a tree on Hopetoun Lawn to mark the anniversary. In Mueller Hall the celebrations continued as five Presidents assembled beside a birthday cake, Beth recounted the history of the Friends, and Janet Thomson presented a slide talk illustrating some of the projects we've supported in the Gardens. We have donated more than \$1,100,000 in our first 20 years, as well as countless voluntary hours.

Our funds were augmented by just under \$25,000 as a result of the Autumn Plant Sale in mid-April. This was slightly more than the figure realised at the autumn sale last year. As always, this great effort brought much credit to the Growing Friends. The plants had a few extra weeks to flourish in the warm Indian summer, the sale being held later than usual to avoid Easter. Our garden at Gate Lodge is becoming well established; Geoff Kneebone has been appointed to work with RBG horticulturists in caring for it.

Some recent talks have taken us around the world. We've heard about Delbard roses newly introduced from France; about Greek landscapes and wildflowers (Caroline Davies); about gardens in Ireland (Stephen

Ryan) and about a summer trip to the Antarctic peninsula and islands in the southern ocean (Philip Moors). We've planned our first video screening, featuring the Chelsea Flower Show and Barnsley House, Gloucestershire, for 23 May.

Further afield from South Yarra, we've enjoyed trips to the Yarra Valley and north-east Victoria, and to that influential home of horticulture in Victoria, Burnley College. More heritage: a talk about the Arts and Crafts period of architecture and gardens in Melbourne (1900–1930) and a visit to the Johnston Collection, with its lavish array of decorative arts and antique furniture.

Back to the contemporary hot topic of drought-resistant gardens, Attila Kapitany drew upon his long experience and fascination with plants that flourish in deserts to convince us that we should cultivate succulents and other plants with low water needs.

We're holding a plant propagation course soon, and have invited expressions of interest in plant photography classes. Quarterly Insiders Walks conducted by gardeners or voluntary guides, and talks by Herbarium staff, continue to extend our knowledge of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Two of our Botanical Illustrators, Mali Moir and Rita Parkinson, have been awarded gold medals by the Royal Horticultural Society in London, and another Member, Andrew Seward, has received a grant from the Australia Council for the Arts, enabling him to live and work in London for three months. New ventures — the production of a Friends' Christmas card and a sale of small unframed works of art — proved highly successful. The demanding task of planning for the Art of Botanical Illustration exhibition, to be staged from 23 October to 10 November, is well under way.

We held a New Members Welcome and guided walk in March for about 140 people who have joined recently. We continue striving to enlist and maintain more Members.

Amazing plans for the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden were unveiled by its Governors, the Minister for Environment and Conservation and a group of primary school children, on 8 February. It is expected to be completed by early 2004, occupying about 5000 square metres fronting Birdwood Avenue between Observatory House and the Herbarium. The RBG has recently developed a program encouraging members of the public to sponsor a favourite tree or collection through an annual donation.

Banyule City Council has agreed to support the establishment in Ivanhoe of a new Melbourne roost for Grey-headed Flying-foxes. The relocation site is an isolated area at Horseshoe Bend on the Yarra River. The proposed strategy is unprecedented in urban wildlife management, but seems to offer the best chance of protecting the RBG vegetation in the long term. If the proposed relocation trial is successful it will relieve the pressure on the RBG Fern Gully and surrounding area. The RBG is continuing to work with the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to establish the alternative roost site. A fly-out count in late January totalled approximately 12,000 Flying-foxes in the Gardens.

Other important matters are more positive. Heritage Victoria has recommended to the Heritage Council that the existing registration of the RBG should be extended to include the whole of the Melbourne Gar-

dens. A decision is awaited after a public submission period. An independent performance review of the RBG's Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology, now in its fourth year of operation, has endorsed its work; the Baker Foundation has agreed to continue its support of ARCUE for an additional three years. The RBG has recently developed its first broad Conservation Policy, founded on the Convention on Biological Diversity. This will affect the exchange of plant material and to some extent the use of plant material by the Growing Friends. Further consideration will take place to establish a set of practical guidelines to ensure that all RBG activities are consistent with the policy's objectives. The policy can be found at the website www.rbg.gov.au.

Heather Ironmonger, Editor *Botanic News* Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

A SUPER-SIZED CAKE WAS the centrepiece of the Christmas table 2001 when Friends of RTBG celebrated their 10th anniversary. Membership is now in the region of 200, 'And small though the numbers are, the support given to the Gardens over the years has enabled much more to be achieved than would otherwise have been the case', said Jim Cane, the then Acting Director, in addressing the gathering.

Indeed, he was not gilding the lily, for over the years the Friends have, in addition to their rôle in promoting the Gardens in many other ways, supported the gardens by substantial annual contributions.

Among the more recent is a donation to help in the establishment of the Chinese Garden and funds to enable the Gardens to keep the exceedingly popular Conservatory open to the public so that they may continue to enjoy the floral feasts it provides.

In addition, much-needed funds were gathered together to support the Macquarie Island House, the world's first sub-antarctic plant house. Its expertly gathered and cared for sub-antarctic plants are displayed on contoured landforms of slopes, rocks, tarn, marsh and beach, which cleverly blend into a curving and starkly powerful mural of moorland hill, chunky headland, black seal beach, crashing sea and violent sky. To top it all, introduced breezy cold air and moisture re-create the authentic chilly and soggy 8°C environment. A feast for eyes and a shock to the system!

That's not all. The current year's donation to the Gardens is \$20,000 for the purchase of a Matica Aluminium Embossing Machine for plant labelling, and this now means that documentation of plants in the Gardens will be accurately maintained for the life of the plant. Former plastic tags were easily broken after only a year or two, resulting in important information about the plants being lost.

Whilst we have been helping the Gardens we have also been helping ourselves, in a manner of speaking. So far with the aid of grants we have been able to make the inside of the restored heritage cottage, our headquarters, into an important photographic gallery featuring the history of the RTBG and, more recently, a display featuring the early botanists and collectors. These displays attract curious visitors whenever we are able to have the cottage open for inspection. The voluntary time and research that have gone into these unique displays is enormous.

Behind the cottage, again funded by a grant gained a few years back (binding us to assist National Parks and Wildlife with the propagation of endangered native species, which we were happy to do, anyway), we have a large purpose-built propagation area comprising greenhouse, garden shed and rows of elevated benches beneath an imposing recently-built high steel structure covered with shade cloth. It is under here that the volunteer propagators work and chat and raise worthwhile sums for the Gardens. A sprinkling system is on the verge of being installed. Our most-plentiful native species at the moment is the Tasmanian Federation Flower, *Phebalium davesii*, a plant thought to be extinct until recently. They were initially propagated by TAFE and we have undertaken to pot them on and market them.

Bring situated where we are in a beautiful island and a port of call for cruise ships, we invite their cargo of leisured pleasure-seekers to pay us a visit and delight in a few hours amongst familiar and strange flora. Our volunteer guides are ready to show them around on a most-informative tour for a modest contribution.

The latter two enterprises are ongoing fund-raising activities and our main sources of revenue, apart from membership fees. We respond to requests from the Gardens for what they would like from us, and we do our best to comply. This means that from time to time we engage in other monetary activities. However, many of our contributions do not directly raise money but are, nevertheless, vital. There is a roster of Friends busy in the Discovery centre, answering queries from the public, and others working delicately in the herbarium on the preservation of plant specimens, as well as cottage openers who are happy to spend a few not-so-lonely hours as curators of the photograph display.

Fagus is the magazine produced four times a year, which keeps members informed of what is going on in the Gardens and in Friends. Yet another grant has enabled us to have a completely modern computer set up and the magazine is due for a revamp shortly.

Incidentally, we have a very keen member who watches out for any grant money on offer and does the necessary work. The fact that we have bid successfully recently is due to our having a genuine community need that is clearly and succinctly outlined in each submission, and we have a reputation as an organisation that manages its affairs in a responsible manner. It did no harm, either, to display a competitive edge.

We have a newly-appointed Director, Steven Corbett, who has already been out and about among Friends, pledged his support and is keen to see our numbers grow. For sure, those who are in the thick of Friends are very busy indeed with such a slender membership to call upon. There are compensations, though. On 22 April we were invited to the planting of the Wollemi Pine and later that evening to a cocktail party with the Council of Heads of Botanic Gardens meeting here.

Betty Charles, Editor of *Fagus*

Friends of Bendigo's Botanic Gardens

THE FRIENDS OF BENDIGO'S BOTANIC GARDENS are now in their third year of operation and we are gradually establishing working relationships with City Council Parks and Gardens staff, Council officers and other interested community bodies concerned with the maintenance and care of our parks and Botanic Gardens.

We have a busy program planned for 2002 and it is hoped that our group can raise awareness of the nature and complexity of our city parks and gardens. While many activities are focused on learning about conservation of historic values and features of the gardens we have included two excursions that will look at some local native vegetation. The proposed extension to the White Hills Gardens will have collections of Australian native plants, and it's hoped that the local flora will not be overlooked.

The propagation group is continuing to meet every second Tuesday of the month and works closely with the city nursery garden staff. The roses in the Conservatory Gardens have long needed dead-heading and sucker removal during the flowering season and the propagation group, with help from the garden staff, has commenced work in this area. The Friends group is endeavouring to grow some of the more unusual plants from Bendigo's parks, using cuttings and seeds. We have been successful in growing *Doryalis caffra* (Kei-apple) and *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian Peppertree), and plants have been given to the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

The Friends are also involved with the preparation of plant lists and labels, and the installation of these labels on trees in Rosalind Park and White Hills Botanic Gardens.

One of our number has conducted guided walks around Rosalind Park and the White Hills Botanic Gardens. As there are no information brochures about these parks currently available it is hoped that these walks will raise public awareness of the significant features of these parks. The Friends have begun preparing a brochure for Rosalind Park and plan to produce one for the White Hills Botanic Gardens.

Janice Orr, President

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

THE CRANBOURNE FRIENDS HAVE HAD A very busy and successful year. We now have a Patron, the Hon. Peter Howson, CMG, who kindly accepted this rôle at the last A.G.M., held at Cruden Farm generously offered by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch.

The Growing Friends meet on the third Wednesday of each month with approximately 18 members attending. Thousands of plants have been ordered by the Cranbourne Training Complex next-door; others are for sale at the Australian Open Gardens days, and others are donated to school pupils attending sessions run by the Gardens' Education staff.

We applied for, and were most fortunate to receive, \$4113 from the Commonwealth Government's Small

Equipment Grants Program for volunteer organisations to celebrate the International Year of Volunteers, 2001. It has enabled us to purchase a specialist label-printer and associated computer, for use in the Growing Friends' nursery.

Two of our members have been involved in a three-months' training session at the Herbarium to learn how to prepare herbarium collections that meet required standards. These skills will now be passed on to other volunteers so that both the Melbourne and Cranbourne Gardens have a complete set of our flora, a permanent record for the National Herbarium of Victoria and a scientific reference for the Cranbourne Gardens. Another two minor collections will be compiled for general purposes, for example, for school groups.

We are now looking forward to our Annual Dinner when the speaker will be David Tatnall, renowned Victorian photographer. His subject will be 'The Bass Strait Islands'.

Our Winter Lecture series is extremely popular. Outstanding speakers have been booked for June, July and August in various locations.

In October we participated in the inaugural Baw Baw Garden Expo run by the Drouin Lions Club over two days. Lardner Park near Warragul was a perfect venue; it is planned to return again this year.

The camping trip to Wyperfeld last year was a great success. This year we go to the Grampians.

The Friends and the Gardens staff work extremely well together. Volunteers have assisted feral-proofing the northern boundary fence. \$3000 was donated towards the cost of two field trips, one to the Grampians, the other to the Brisbane Ranges. Information panels at Stringy Bark Picnic area were updated. Two new barbecue plates are being provided.

We have enjoyed visits from the Melbourne Friends, the Friends of Scienceworks and, earlier, the Albany Friends.

Lesley Clark, President

Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH the Ballarat Botanical Gardens held its 50th Ballarat Begonia Festival. More than 25,000 people passed through the exhibition space over a 10-day period. During this busy time we were privileged to hear so many stories and positive comments about the Festival, our Botanical Gardens, the wonderful Begonias and, of course, us! Ballarat Botanical Gardens also hosted the inaugural Curators Symposium, which saw our members attending the lectures and helping to feed and water the hungry hordes.

After the Festival we put our feet up and relaxed. Well, no, not exactly. On 22 April we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Ballarat Friends with an afternoon tea and the dedication of a garden seat. Another garden seat is to be dedicated to Joan Garner for her stewardship during the past decade. Her leadership has seen the group go from strength to strength. Many of the founding members shared their stories of the group's beginnings. We also celebrated the 10th anniversary of open public membership.

The Northern Gardens Wetlands area continues to be planted out with sedges and rushes. Water was pumped out of the pondage areas to reduce water depth so that the plants could photosynthesise. The plants have also been netted to protect them from aquatic birds while they establish themselves. An estimated 4000 plants have been planted, out of an eventual 23,000 over the next two years.

The unfortunate vandalism of the Carrara marble statues Leda, Flora Farnese and Hebe has also to be mentioned. The damaged statues have been removed from their pedestals for repair and/or replacement. Discussion of the future of the statues is ongoing.

Lorraine Fowell

The Tasmanian Arboretum

THE TASMANIAN ARBORETUM IS SITUATED ten kilometres south of Devonport and comprises some 45 plantable hectares, a large lake system, creek and river in a district of undulating landform. Acquired in 1984 through bicentennial funding, the arboretum is being developed privately by a committee drawn from about 350 members. Most of the committee members have horticultural training and landscaping experience. To date, about 1500 trees and shrubs have been planted in geographical collections of cool climate provenance. Last year the Tasmanian Botanic Gardens planted the first of its Southern Hemisphere Conifer Collection at the arboretum.

Members may, from donations or specified work, be nominated as 'Friends', but they do not form a semi-autonomous group to support the arboretum. All activities and achievements are planned and executed by the General Committee and sub-committees, together with some outside assistance. Since its inception in 1984 the development of the arboretum has proceeded through these latter agencies.

Important assistance has been rendered by service clubs, corporations and contractors contributing to the erection of rotundas, a caretaker's cottage, the visitor centre, the kiosk, service buildings and toilets.

The planting, care and maintenance of the collections is the responsibility of the appointed curators and volunteers. Fundraising is through membership subscriptions, donations, sponsorships, an annual concert and support from the Devonport City Council. There is also a voluntary entrance donation. Applications are made for specific funding to various organisations.

At present a browsing animal exclusion fence is being erected around the site, necessary because of continuing damage to deciduous trees. This should be completed in May this year.

The arboretum is slowly becoming recognised as a botanical reference source for cool-climate trees and shrubs of world provenance.

John Langford, Curator, North American section