



Campsis radicans (Trumpet Flower)
Beverley Graham 1994

Campsis

Newsletter of the
Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.
A0026805Z
ISSN 1320-8578

From the Secretary

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association was held in Ballarat on 4 April, with the usual formal business being conducted. The election of members of the Committee for the year 2003_04 resulted as follows:

President: Pauline Wicksteed
Vice-President: Janet Thomson
Secretary: Lawrence Cohn
Treasurer: David Baumgartner
Other Members: Shirley Falkinder, Michelle Noakes, Denise Payne, Jayne Salmon and Thomasina Siekmann.

Joan Garner remains on the Committee as Immediate Past President.

The Committee met immediately afterwards. New members Denise Payne (representing the Friends of Karwarra Plant Garden Inc.) and Thomasina Siekmann (representing the Friends of Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Inc.) were welcomed. Pauline Wicksteed and Michelle Noakes were not able to attend. Thanks were recorded for the work of Joan Garner as President; of Marie Ziebell, a member of the Committee for seven years, including a year as President; of Jeff Gates, a member for five years, including a year as President; and of Joyce Gates, a member for four years.

It was noted that annual subscriptions for 2003 had been paid by 24 Members, but that 9 Members had not yet paid their subscriptions. A reminder will be sent with this issue of *Campsis*.

A report was received of the progress being made for the 2004 Conference in Canberra, and an offer by the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, to host a Conference in September 2006 was warmly accepted. It is expected that the new Australian Garden will then have reached a stage when it will be worth visiting. The Committee considered a suggestion that, in 2005, instead of a Conference along the lines of previous Conferences, there should be a gathering solely for the purposes of discussing continuing

well problems that had been overcome, and their solutions. Every Member of the Association would be asked to submit a relevant paper. A decision about this suggestion will be taken at the next meeting of the Committee, which is expected to be held in October.

Judith Bailey, of Ballarat, who maintains the Association's website, reported that there had been more than 4000 'hits' since the website had been set up in May 2002.

Several less important matters were also dealt with.

Lawrence Cohn

Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens

2002, ... What a year in the Gardens! 125th Anniversary celebrations, Official Opening of the Friends Rose Arbours project, a sensational Friends Association Conference in Ballarat, and hosting Alexander from India, to discover the wonderful work of environmental educators in Southern India and the value of people power.

A huge round of applause to everybody who helped during the year, to bring many new experiences to the community of Albury and visitors to our Gardens.

On 4 December, at Picnic in the Park, 'Teddy's Garden Adventure' was launched. A wonderful project to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the teddy bear, it is a program that can be toured around other Botanic gardens. An interactive storybook display for anyone who loves teddy bears and gardens, it featured the beautiful artwork of Marianna de Wouytch. Teenagers in costume were on hand at the five different panels to tell the story to young and old alike. A great treat for the grand-kids and the young at heart.

2003 has started off in the same vein. We hosted the 'World Dragonfly Conference' delegates to a sit-down barbecue tea and tour of the Gardens on 9 January. 70 delegates from all over the world attended and were treated to a

glorious best. Cinema under the Stars was held in the Gardens on 1 March. We had a brisk summer's evening, with great friends, picnic baskets and that wonderful movie, 'Rabbit-proof Fence'.

Our AGM was on 2 March at 2 p.m., and we are looking at lots of exciting projects and events in the near future. 'Music in the Gardens' is coming up early in May, with the Sing Australia Choir and Scot's School Pipe Band. A time to sit back and smell the roses!

Alexander from India was married in early February to Mercedes Renuka Devi. His letter of thanks to the Friends after his visit to Albury will be displayed in the 'Fellowes Centre'. Alex has begun discussions on the formation of a botanic garden in Southern India. He has been working on the draft strategic plan we helped him with; we will receive the second version shortly.

Jeff Gates

Friends of Bendigo's Botanic Gardens

PPROMOTE; PROTECT; RESTORE. These three words encapsulate the Friends' aims to ensure the future of Bendigo's public gardens. Our 2003 program has been shaped by these aims.

It has become clear that the Bendigo City Council, and to a lesser extent the community, rate Bendigo's grand 19th century buildings as more culturally significant than the city's four main parks - Rosalind Park, Lake Weeroona, Canterbury Gardens and White Hills Botanic Gardens. These parks appear to be overlooked by the City Council and community as places of equal importance in the history of Bendigo and, as a result, decisions have been made regarding their use and maintenance that have caused a serious decline in the health and appearance of these gardens. In response to this, the Friends have adopted the words Promote, Protect and Restore as their focussing motto.

Promote. The Friends are 'Promoting' the gardens by arranging speaker evenings and excursions to significant nurseries and gardens as part of our 2003 program. We have formed a sub-committee to develop a set of brochures for each of our four main gardens and we will continue to conduct guided walks. We are also actively seeking to establish links with other gardening groups in the city to attempt to break down the perceived barriers between private gardens and public gardens. Our Growing Friends Group, with the City Nursery Parks Staff, meet

regularly and have drawn up an interesting and varied program of activities for the year.

Protect. All Bendigo's gardens are heavily used by the community and, as a result, are under pressure from a wide range of competing interests. The White Hills Botanic Gardens is seen as a place for family picnics. Rosalind Park has become the school ground for the 2000 students attending the Bendigo Senior Secondary School and Lake Weeroona, our busiest park, will have its area further reduced by the installation of a tourist tramline and all the additional infrastructure that goes with it. The Friends have members serving on the Parks Advisory Committee and they lobby Parks Staff and Councillors, but 'Protect' is a hard aim to achieve.

Restore, because it is the most positive aim, also has the potential to be the most satisfying. The Friends have been encouraged by City Parks to establish a Perennial Garden in the White Hills Botanic Gardens. After a great deal of thought and consultation the Friends have decided to create a garden entirely of Monocotyledonous plants, using the city's Canna Collection as its base. A sub-committee has been formed to plan the structure of the garden and to select and source plant stocks. There is also money available through a grant from Heritage Victoria to commence work on writing a Management Plan for Rosalind Park and Fernery. The Friends will be taking a close interest in the progress of this document as it will contain the future for Rosalind Park and Fernery and also the adjacent Conservatory Gardens.

The Bendigo Friends value other Botanic Gardens and the support and inspiration of their Friends groups. We remain committed to promoting, protecting and restoring our public parks to the place of prominence they used to have one hundred years ago. The community's use and enjoyment of these parks has not altered; it is where the Public Parks are placed on the City Council's priority list that has changed.

Janice Orr, President

Friends of Portland Botanic Gardens

WWE HAVE JUST HAD a wonderful OPEN DAY on 23 March. We decided that the community needed to view the Gardens, as we felt that lots of people simply drove past! We offered Devonshire Teas and a sausage sizzle but suggested that they bring a picnic, which lots

of them did. The 'town' band played, as did the Irish folk group, the Croquet Club organised some players, a map of the more interesting plants and trees was drawn up for self-guided tours, and the historic Gardeners' Cottage was open.

In typical Portland style the weather wasn't all that flash, but about 400 wandered through the dahlias and roses, and along the paths, with lots of laughter being heard, so we believe it was a GREAT day!

To follow we have Jayne Salmon (Geelong Friends) as guest speaker for our AGM on 1 June, two general meetings with local speakers, and a HUGE Cup Day lunch, which we hope will be a winner with the locals and a profitable fundraiser.

Also, we are to begin a Potting Group and have working bees in the Gardens. All in all, a busy and fruitful year ahead.

Jenn Collett

Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens

THE GARDENS RECEPTION CENTRE is now open on both Saturdays and Sundays.

On the first Sunday of each month conducted train tours and a light lunch or refreshments are proving very popular. Although it has been a very quiet time over the past very hot months, visitor numbers are generally increasing, with many coach tours and group bookings for train tours, meals or refreshments keeping our catering team very busy. A popular introduction to our special menu is honing in on our garden emblem, with quandong pies and cream and crab-apple jelly being served. Mothers Day on 11 May will again feature a full day, with hourly tours, barbecue lunches, refreshments and entertainment.

In November 44 Friends _ 2 bus loads _ toured 5 local gardens and, with a picnic lunch, enjoyed a very informative and enjoyable day, which will be repeated this year.

The Gardens now employ 3 new apprentices and are also fortunate to have 2 groups of ten under the Community Jobs and Access Employment programs for a period of 13 weeks. Much progress is the result in the mini-streams construction and general maintenance, providing a well-presented appearance to visitors, despite a battle with the long drought conditions.

The Friends have sponsored the installation of a new toilet block near the Rose Garden,

assisted by a 'Year of the Volunteers' grant of \$1500, and with volunteer help have extended the toilets at the Reception Centre to 6 units, to cater for large groups and wheel-chair access. Volunteers are presently in the process of re-erecting a shearing shed moved from the Balranald area, to complement the Garnpang Homestead as a historical and ecological facility. Another active group is providing a face-lift to the many tables and seats around the Gardens. They have rebuilt the entrance trellis (blown down in a storm) at the reception centre and resealed the concrete floor.

In the Australia Day activities the Friends were honoured in receiving a Community Award from the Wentworth Shire Council.

The Gardens have had wide publicity, featuring in many publications of garden magazines and newspapers, resulting in wider visitations and public interest.

An exciting move is under way to adopt a Business Plan for the Gardens and for the proposed Barkinji Biosphere Reserve incorporating several surrounding properties, with the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens as a central pivot. A large grant has just been announced as the first projection of funding to start the project. Trust for Nature, Latrobe University, Murray Darling Basin Commission, Lower Murray Water, Myer Foundation and Birds Australia are all involved.

We welcome a visit from the Geelong Friends in April for a train tour, morning tea and evening dinner, when we will be able to renew friendships with those we have been privileged to meet at the various conferences.

Our volunteers continue to maintain the beautiful rose garden and nature trail each week and enjoy a great deal of fellowship in the process. The rewards are great.

Margaret Hall, Secretary

Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens

OUR BIGGEST ACTIVITY for the last six months was the Central West Garden and Outdoor EXPO, which was held in the Gardens on 3 November. This is now a regular event on the Orange calendar. It is organised by the Rotary Club of Orange (Daybreak) with the help of the Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens and other community groups. It was a warm and sunny day and this helped to attract lots of visitors to the Gardens. Despite the rural downturn related to the drought, the takings were only slightly less than last year. As in

previous years, one third of the allocated funds will flow to the Orange Botanic Gardens, and this money will be directed to the development of the new conifer section. The Rotary committee has decided to contribute to the establishment of this area over several years, since it is a major undertaking. Last year's contribution financed a landscape masterplan for the area. The remaining funds from the 2002 EXPO will be distributed to three local charities. As usual, the Friends staffed the gates, collecting the entry fees, the chief source of revenue from the event. Friends were also busy with the very successful plant stall, with an amazing range of stock produced by our Growing Friends, providing morning teas and the Talks programme. We organised nine 25-minute talks, the subjects being organic gardening, landcare, mushrooms, native plants, topiary, heritage roses, 'birdscaping' and flower arranging. There was much satisfaction for the committee in seeing so many Friends coming to help on the day.

This year's Friends activities started with a flourish – a musical flourish, in fact. Encouraged by the enthusiasm of the Gardens Supervisor, Neil Bollinger, we sponsored a series of four twilight concerts held in the Gardens on Friday evenings during March. The Orange Regional Conservatorium organised the musical programme. The first concert was presented by the Orange Symphony Orchestra and subsequent concerts by brass, string and wind ensembles from the Conservatorium. The musicians played at various open-air stages around the billabong at the centre of the Gardens. The concerts proved very popular and visitors came along with their picnic baskets and enjoyed a relaxed evening of light classical music in a beautiful environment. The Friends committee is encouraged by the success of this new venture as a way to promote the use and appreciation of the Gardens. There was no entry charge but visitors were invited to offer a donation to defray costs of the event. We hope to stage a similar series of concerts next year.

Our regular Friends activities continue as before. The Wednesday Workers and Sunday working-bee participants are doing lots of useful work, even finding some relatively gentle jobs to do during the very hot summer. The monthly Sunday walks continue to be popular. An added bonus for attenders is the opportunity to purchase plants from our stall, which always has some attractive and interesting items propagated by our Growing Friends.

**Patricia Bannatyne, Hon. Secretary
Friends of Burnley Gardens**

TOPICS FOR MEMBERS' MEETINGS this year range from growing herbs, succulents and drought-tolerant plants to travel in South America and heritage fruit. An autumn excursion by bus to Ferny Creek and 'Cloud Hill' in the Dandenongs is planned for 17 May. There will also be regular working bees.

Funds raised recently from garden tours and functions have been used to pay for the replacement of the Wisteria Arbour and to purchase software to support the plant-labelling project undertaken by volunteers from our group.

In the next edition we hope to be able to report on the reinstatement of the Gardens Manager position for Burnley Horticultural Gardens, which are officially 140 years old in 2003.

Kay Hirst, President

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

SINCE THE OPENING of the 21st century garden last September visitor numbers have trebled. The new garden embraces the waterfront and complements the historic 1850s garden. The modern landscaping provides for display of plants with regional relevance, plant adaptation and plant evolution.

The voluntary guides have been working many hours each week to keep up with the public demand for walks, the Friends' Teahouse has been rushed off its feet and we have had to employ staff at weekends to assist our volunteer Friends with the increased business. Our Growing Friends Nursery has had record plant sales.

The Botanic Gardens, under the dynamic leadership of curator John Arnott, is going from strength to strength but we do beg the question 'What would the Gardens do without the passionate Friends'? Recently the Australian Plant Society, Pelargonium Club, Organic Growers and Hydroponic Growers have become corporate members of the Friends and hold their meetings in the Botanic Gardens' meeting room. It is agreed that this will further strengthen the Friends as a community organization and add more weight to our funding applications to council.

We welcomed our new Patron, Professor Sally Ann Walker, Vice-Chancellor, Deakin

University, at our first meeting for the year and look forward to strengthening links with the University.

For current information about us, please refer to our new website www.friendsgbg.com

Jayne Salmon, President

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens

THE SEVERE DROUGHT and bushfires affecting the ACT and its surrounds were undoubtedly the dominant features of the summer period for the ANBG and the Friends. The fires of 18 January, which destroyed over 500 homes in Canberra, forced the evacuation of the ANBG, and the Gardens were closed to the public for a number of days afterwards because of safety concerns. The extreme fire danger also forced the cancellation of the Friends' summer concerts on two successive weekends. While this inevitably dented our major source of revenue, the remaining concerts maintained their popularity and attracted good crowds despite competing musical events at other venues.

Despite the water restrictions imposed as a result of the drought, the Gardens have survived remarkably well and have provided a welcome green 'environmental haven' to the many visitors seeking respite from the parched landscape around Canberra. During the summer period the Volunteer Guides have conducted three walks every day, as well as leading pre-booked walks for organised groups. These walks have generally been well attended, with many of the people joining them being from interstate and overseas.

Over 320 participants enjoyed the annual Grazing in the Gardens, a progressive dinner held on 30 November at three different locations within the Gardens. A calm and warm autumn evening provided a pleasant welcome for the 65 people who attended the inaugural Friends Twilight Dinner (for Friends and invited guests only) on 6 March. This was a highly successful event and will be repeated next year. Other notable recent Friends activities have included a tour of the Cryptogam Herbarium and the ANBG Library; a special walk to view the enhancement of the Rainforest Gully with new plant material from Queensland; a highly successful plant sale conducted by the Growing Friends; and a fascinating walk which highlighted some of the uses that Aboriginal people made of Australian plant species.

Pauline Wicksteed and Loris Howes retired from the Friends Council earlier this year, each having served two full terms as President and Vice-President respectively. The significant contributions both made to the development of the Friends over the past few years have been warmly appreciated. At the Friends AGM held on 13 February, Andrew Walker (Newsletter editor and volunteer guide) and David Mellowship (Membership Secretary) were elected to the positions of President and Vice-President respectively. Fortunately for the work of the Council, there will be much needed continuity in the key positions of Secretary (Margaret Mansfield) and Treasurer (Beverley Fisher).

Friends were advised at the recent AGM of increases in membership fees, to be implemented from next August. Membership subscriptions have not changed since the inception of the Friends in 1990 and, while the benefits to Friends have increased since then, the costs involved in running the organisation have increased significantly, to a point where they have reduced our capacity to support the Gardens.

Coming notable events include the launch of the new fungi website on 8 May, a 'Behind the Scenes' tour of Australia's National Herbarium on 11 June and a weekend excursion to the Southern Sydney Sandstone region on 26 and 27 July.

Andrew Walker, President

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

AS THE ANNUAL NUMBER of visitors to the Gardens passed the two million mark and Dr Philip Moors was congratulated on his first 10 years as Director, our venerable National Herbarium celebrates its 150th anniversary. Events planned for 2003 include conferences, special displays, an exhibition of works from the State Botanical Collection, an original musical theatre work, and a commemorative wine.

Another cause for celebration is the departure from the Gardens of the 28,000-strong colony of flying-foxes by the end of March. Thus the carefully-planned dispersal program, involving three weeks of unsettling noise and visual deterrents, achieved its first goal. Many bats left the area entirely, but several thousand took up temporary roosts in the adjacent Domain parklands. They have since been moved on as a result of the continuing disturbance program; follow-up

dispersal is being maintained for any flying-foxes remaining in other city parklands. The bats have not yet established a roost at Horseshoe Bend, an area of bushland on the Yarra River which has been prepared for their arrival.

This initial phase relied on large numbers of volunteers to generate the noises in the mornings and evenings. As Dr Moors explained, members of the two RBG Friends groups, and especially the Melbourne Friends, showed great commitment and perseverance by turning up repeatedly at 5.00 am and 7.00 pm. Almost 200 noble volunteers took part over the 10 days of action, including staff from the RBG and Departments of Sustainability and Environment and Primary Industries.

The current second phase of the program _ keeping the flying-foxes on the move _ relies on four 'sound buggies'. They are mobile sound systems playing a CD of mixed sounds scientifically developed to disturb the bats and make them flee.

The Long Island area of the Gardens is of great cultural and spiritual significance as a traditional Aboriginal camping ground and meeting place. At a ceremony on 21 March to mark the completion of this major rehabilitation project there was a smoking ceremony and a moving address by the RBG Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Dean Stewart. Interpretation lends a new educational focus to the area. Extensive indigenous planting has enhanced remnant vegetation, and aquatic planting has revitalised the lake. Native grasses have attracted red-rumped parrots - not seen in the Gardens for many years - and a sacred kingfisher has nested in a palm.

The RBG has signalled a change in its view of the Friends' primary focus, believing our most valuable role is to promote community awareness of the Gardens rather than to act as fundraisers. That being said, of course our financial support continues. Our most recent grant was \$26,995, being the first instalment of our *Water Works, Water Wise* commitment to extend the automatic irrigation system. This work was carried out in December on Theatre Lawn, followed by the planting of kikuyu grass to minimise watering requirements.

The Gardens won the Savewater! award for a Sustainable Garden on 28 March, and the Water Conservation Garden has had wide media exposure over recent months as a planting model. The Friends Summer Quarterly Walk focused on three areas where plants withstand dry conditions - the Grey Garden, the Water Conservation Garden and the Arid Garden.

The RBG has been exempted from Stage 1 water restrictions, largely due to its excellent

conservation record (reducing consumption by more than 40 per cent since 1994). This exemption also assists the Growing Friends, whose offerings were in superb condition for the Autumn Plant Sale on 29 and 30 March. Given the reluctance of many people to spend money on their gardens until the drought breaks, the takings of \$24,500 (including GST) was an excellent result.

The Botanical Illustrators sealed the success of their 2002 exhibition with an outstanding profit of \$34,500. Their Christmas card, reproducing Dolores Skowronski-Milloni's illustration of *Cedrus libani*, sold very well also. A blank version of this card is available from the Friends' office.

About 50 new Friends were welcomed at a late-afternoon function in March, followed by a walk in the Gardens led by the Voluntary Guides. There has been a slow but steady increase in membership, which now stands at about 2050. (Household Members are now, for the first time, counted as two Members in the statistics.)

The Friends Activities Sub-committee presented a diverse, well-attended program in the past six months. Highlights included a Christmas dinner at the Lyceum Club addressed by Elaine Canty, and a tour of Government House Gardens followed by morning tea with the Governor and Mrs Landy. Speakers at our meetings were Sarah Guest on an Amazon trip, Andrew Laidlaw on the landscape history of the Gardens, Carolyn Blackman on garden fashions, and Diana Fickling on heritage roses. Terry Smyth and Susan Purdy, in a walk and talk, enlightened us about the many qualities of Chinese plants. A 'Western Visions' bus trip in March introduced us to unfamiliar territory and inspiring examples of community-led environmental action, such as the Newport Lakes Park and the redevelopment of the Altona tip. We also visited the historic Williamstown Botanic Gardens and Basaltica, a native garden tucked into a 'Jeffrey Smart' urban landscape crammed with heavy transport infrastructure.

A tour to Western Australia between 4 and 10 October will encompass gourmet gardens of Margaret River, wildflowers and forests. It has been planned by the Friends in conjunction with Merryle and David Johnson of Country Farm Perennials to follow the Kings Park Wildflower Festival and the national conference of Gardens Guides in Perth. Contact the Friends Office on 03 9650 6398 for further details.

Heather Ironmonger

Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens

THE HIGHLIGHT FOR 2002 was a visit by the Governor of Victoria, John Landy, to our Gardens during August. Governor Landy was given an extensive tour of the Gardens by President Gary Box and Victoria Radford. With the assistance of our Girl Guides and Brownies, the Governor planted a mature white-flowering *Robinea pseudoacacia* in honour of his visit.

The Friends were also pleased to exchange ideas with the Friends of the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens during October 2002. The Castlemaine Friends were given a tour of our Gardens and historic precinct.

Council has adopted a restoration plan, drawn up by Kevin Walsh, and has appointed a local Management Committee to oversee its implementation. The Friends work closely with this Committee, providing funds for trees, shrubs, etc. and helping with working bees and watering where required. Restoration work has continued with the erection of a Federation-style fence surrounding the pond. There has been an upgrade to the sprinkler system in the hedge beds, the glasshouse, which was in a state of disrepair, has been removed from the Gardens, and bench seating and tables have been given a new lease of life with a coat of heritage green paint.

From donations, two cast-iron heritage seats have been purchased and are ready for installation. Over the past few weeks, stage 1 of the restoration plan will have been completed, and the plan for stage 2 will have been drawn up.

During October 2002 the Friends sponsored the 'Garden of the Year Competition' in connection with the St Arnaud Agricultural Show, and we had some well-deserved winners. Audrey Horfall won Town Garden, Darren and Katrina Slorich of Navarre won Rural Garden and the St Arnaud Secondary College won the Commercial Garden section. It was interesting to note that the College went on to be awarded the State winner for the Best Secondary School Garden in Victoria. The awards were received in a presentation ceremony in Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens.

Our annual Gala Day, held in March 2003, was a huge success, raising \$2350, to further assist with restoration. The day provided a Monster Auction, a raffle, Devonshire Teas, a plant stall, a produce stall, a book stall and locally-made produce stalls that were very well supported by the local community.

On 8 April the Friends welcomed a visit from the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, who

were given a comprehensive tour not only of our lovely Queen Mary Gardens, but also of our famous Pioneer Park, designed by Edna Walling. The tour was led by curator David Harvey and Councillor Barry Keatnan. After the tour the Friends provided lunch for the Geelong Friends before they departed for further touring to Mildura.

Debra Douglas, Secretary

Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide

THE FRIENDS' SILVER JUBILEE celebrations in November 2002 were held in the three Gardens, Adelaide, Mount Lofty and Wittunga, in perfect early summer weather. Events were arranged so that everyone could take part, with each Garden included. On the Friday night there was a dinner at the Adelaide Garden restaurant, on Saturday the champagne opening of a 'Friends, Gifts and Gardens' exhibition at the ABG Museum of Economic Botany, followed by afternoon tea on the lawns, on Sunday a Jazz Concert and Hills Gardens Affair in the arboretum at Mount Lofty Botanic Garden with Friends, their friends and the public, and next day a bus tour of the three Gardens, with morning tea at Wittunga and lunch at Mount Lofty. So successful was the extended weekend that the three Gardens tour will be held again later this year, and possibly another Jazz Concert in 2004.

At the Annual General Meeting of the FBGA, held during the celebrations, Anna Cox stood down as Secretary, ending 25 years as a member of an FBGA committee (and for a period as BGA Board Member). Anna's commitment to the BGA was recognised by the award of OAM in the Australia Day Honours. Kate Hislop assumed Anna's place as Secretary, with Geraldine Hough as second Vice-President, thus filling all vacant offices with 18 members to plan and put in place this year's activities.

Six members are Group Co-ordinators responsible for the guide, shop, craft, growing, gazette and tours activities of the Friends, and their planning began early in January. A guide training programme was in place in March when trainees started their three-month programme with weekly lectures given by BGA staff (also attended by Garden apprentices) and 'Discover the Gardens' tutorials. With this intake there will be 38 guides taking walks four days a week in the ABG and once a week seasonally at Mount Lofty and Wittunga, as well as booked walks in the three Gardens and bus tours at Mount Lofty.

The preparation and distribution of self-guided walk brochures continues and these have been particularly popular in Adelaide. The Growing Group, North Lodge Shop and Craft Group combined on 5 and 6 April with a plant sale and art class exhibition held at the Lodge on a beautiful and busy weekend, and achieved possibly record attendance and sales. This was very pleasing for the organisers and participants.

Currently, planning is underway for the Anzac Day weekend with participation at Gardens Alive 2003. The event is to be held at Carrick Hill, a 20-hectare estate near Adelaide, and will involve Guides and the Growing Group members with a display and information on the theme 'Plants People Culture'. The plan of events in 2003 by the four-member Tour Group is for two practical pruning sessions at the Hills Gardens, two winter video afternoons, one half-day and two full-day bus trips to gardens near Adelaide, a wildflower excursion to Sandy Creek and a spring tour of Tasmania. Hugh Douglas and Liz Gobolos are exploring Hugh's proposal for a Botanical Art Group and have organised a one-day workshop, to be conducted by Dianne Emery in June. The day is already very over-booked, which augurs well for this venture.

With the recent re-organisation of the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage the BGA is now in the Science and Conservation Directorate, with Stephen Forbes assuming the position of Director of the BGA and State Herbarium, the latter again becoming a part of the Gardens. Our constitution again reads correctly that we are Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide and State Herbarium.

FGBA liaison with Botanic Gardens planning has continued with regular Managers/Friends meetings and also for specific purposes. A visitor survey questionnaire designed to produce information about the patterns of use in the ABG by individuals and groups involved both staff and FBGA committee members, and Jamie Smiley, as Friends' representative, has joined a recently-formed BGA Development Committee investigating fund-raising and sponsorship for the Gardens. As well, our volunteer archivist, Pamela Sampson, will represent the FBGA with Board and staff members on the History Project Committee. This Committee has been formed to realise our 25th Anniversary gift contribution, in partnership with the BGA Board, for the preparation and publication of a History of the Gardens for the BGA sesquicentenary, which will be celebrated in 2005.

Tommie Siekmann

Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens

OUR GROUP HAS STARTED the year on a positive note. Our annual picnic in the Gardens on a lovely evening in February was most enjoyable. The first public lecture for 2003 on 31 March was excellent. The speaker, Marilyn Sprague, from Goldfields Revegetation Nursery, Mandurang, was most enthusiastic in her presentation of the plants of our area. The next public lecture will be on 30 June, when we will have Diane Thomson, from Buda and Barkers Creek, coming to follow up on our theme 'Environmental Gardening in the Central Highlands'.

We have had lots of visitors in the Gardens; despite the drought some of the displays have been lovely, especially the begonias. We have a display in the Information Centre near the Post Office, and this is changed with the seasons.

Shirley Falkinder

The Association Web Page

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET VISITED the site, the address is www.friendsbotanicgardens.org.

The site has contacts for all Member Associations and/or their Gardens. If your contact details or site details have changed, contact me on 03 5341 7795 or on clrdnobs@netconnect.com.au, or send details to our secretary, Lawrence Cohn, and he will pass them on. If you are a small Friends group without a website link, you could send some images by email with information attached for a coming event, and from time to time different Gardens could be highlighted in the images page.

Jenny Burrell of Ballarat constructed the site and her voluntary help in getting the Association on the net has been greatly appreciated. I continue to edit the site with the help of Jenny and I am also in touch with the Association Committee.

If there are any questions or ideas you have about the site they will be most welcome.

Judith Bailey, Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

IT HAS BEEN A SUMMMER of outstanding activities and successful fund-raising for the Friends.

At our Christmas drinks in the Gardens the Mayor, Cr James Nicol, launched 'The History of the Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens', written by Marie Johnstone. It is a thorough and well-written account of all that has been achieved by the Friends since their beginning in 1989.

A major achievement for 2002 was the compilation of a data-base for all trees in the Gardens, with a grid-referenced map, expertly drawn up by Mandy King. We received a grant from Parks Victoria of \$3560 to fund this project. Labels have been designed and will soon be installed.

During the summer the Friends organised three functions that have attracted crowds to the Gardens in unprecedented numbers. In early February the annual Wunta Festival of Jazz was held in the Gardens. Bands played from the rotunda and the crowds, estimated at over 3000, were entertained all afternoon. Friends serving Devonshire Teas welcomed many families who were visiting the Gardens for the first time.

The Teddy Bears' Picnic followed, sponsored by Radio 3YB and McDonalds. 350 children entered the competitions and enjoyed the picnic setting and entertainment provided by Ronald McDonald. Friends were kept busy registering the children and serving drinks and party food. It proved to be a very successful fund-raiser for us.

'Fair in the Gardens', held in early April, exceeded all expectations. This had been organised by Billie Rowley, Mandy King and Ann Kelly in conjunction with the Warrnambool City Council, with 70 community groups participating and an attendance of approximately 7000 people. The Fair was sponsored by 'Victoria on the Move', Midfield Meats, the Warrnambool City Council, Radio 3YB and the *Warrnambool Standard*. Devonshire Teas, a produce stall and a plant stall all ensured a financially successful day for the Friends. The Gardens were at their colourful best and everyone enjoyed the music, food and entertainment for many hours.

Marigold Curtis

Campsis no. 21

THE NEXT NUMBER OF *CAMPSIS* is to be issued at the end of the first week of November. Contributions should reach me not later than Tuesday 28 October. It would be most helpful if they were sent to me as attachments to emails, to antelope@connexus.net.au. Otherwise, they may be sent by mail to my postal address, 36 Somerville Street, Doncaster, Vic., 3108, or by fax to the office of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, 03 9650 7723.

I thank those who have contributed to the present issue, no.20.

Lawrence Cohn