



Campsis

NEWSLETTER

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

ISSN 1320-8578 AOO26805Z

No. 25

October 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2006 AFBG Conference at Cranbourne, Victoria.

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne Inc. will host the 2006 Conference at Cranbourne, Victoria from the evening of Friday 15th September to the afternoon of Sunday 17th September 2006.

The theme of the conference is "Our Role in Evolution, Ecology and Environment". An excellent group of speakers will cover subjects of interest to everyone involved with Botanic Gardens.

Details of venues and the program will be distributed early in 2006.

Participants will be visiting the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, with guided tours being conducted through the indigenous bush land as well as the **Australian Garden**, which is being constructed in a former sand quarry and is scheduled to be opened to the public in May 2006.

Earthmoving and landscape construction is virtually complete and some dramatic features have been installed. Planting is continuing in a red sand garden, a central feature which simulates the red centre of our great continent.

Almost 10,000 litres of re-circulated water per minute flows down a **Rock Pool Waterway** which is reminiscent of an inland stream. A huge steel sculpture, 80 metres long, forms an **Escarpment Wall** beside the stream. Designed by Melbourne sculptor **Greg Clark**, this dramatic structure evokes visions of cliffs in the Kimberley Ranges.



Planting continues of the 1500 species of Australian plants which will feature in the eleven hectares of stage one. Eventually the Australian Garden will cover 26 hectares displaying plants from the red centre to coastal regions. Already hundreds of advanced trees have been transplanted and are at home in this brand new garden.



A **Visitor Centre** is presently being fitted out and will be handed over to the Gardens before the end of this year. The visitor centre will feature wonderful views over the Australian Garden and provide space for displays, a Gardens Shop and a Café, as it seems no modern Botanic Garden can exist without a cappuccino machine. Designed by **Kerstin Thompson Architects**, the building is clad with plantation-grown-hardwood weatherboards that will weather and blend with the natural environment. There will be no air conditioning. Cooling will be achieved by passing air over a large rock store located underneath and circulating the air throughout the building.

You will be inspired to visit the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in the spring. September is a great time to enjoy the indigenous bushland. This year has produced a good number of Southern Brown Bandicoot babies. The Australian Garden will be ready to impress all visitors, 'Especially you'.

Alex Smart

FROM THE SECRETARY



In May I became Secretary of the Association following the retirement of Lawrence Cohn after 13 years service. I am a member of the Geelong Friends, serving eleven years on the Committee of Management, with six years as Secretary, primarily involved in special projects, grants submissions and committees supporting the Geelong Botanic Gardens Master Plan and more recently as an 'emerging' Voluntary Guide.

Lawrence served the Association tirelessly, as Secretary, organiser and *Campsis* editor and publisher, during which time the Association grew from a small Victorian group, to a national body with 37 members from 6 states representing over 11,000 Friends. I have looked through the member's websites and find them very impressive and informative

It is of note, that some recent Association members are endeavouring to develop Botanic Gardens in their community, or to rekindle interest in a 'tired' older established garden.

I trust we will be able to continue this growth, strengthen the Association, improve our networking and better provide members with a forum for communication, information, support and advocacy.

The 2005/06 Association Committee is 2 Friends representatives short of the full complement of 11 members. Your contribution is necessary, valuable and greatly appreciated. Please consider this opportunity to make a difference, before the AGM in 2006. Feel free to contact the President or Secretary by telephone, mail, or E-mail, for more information.

In late October Alex Smart (President) and I will be representing the Association at the 2nd Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Congress to be held in Hobart. This fledgling organisation, an initiative of the Council Heads of Botanic Gardens (CHABG), will be launched at the congress. Regional Botanic Gardens networks are being established and some initial meetings have been well attended.

(See *Campsis* back page for BGANZ newsletter and contact details)

The goals of BGANZ are;

*"To be the chief body representing the interests of Botanic Gardens in Australia and New Zealand
To promote the interests and activities of Australian and New Zealand Botanic Gardens
To enhance the state of botanic gardens for the benefit of the community."*

Representatives from BGANZ have met with the Association Future Directions sub committee. Essentially we share a common goal and a unity of purpose, making membership of BGANZ necessary and with considerable benefits for the Association members. Potentially, greater recognition, a higher profile, improved networking and advocacy, and closer working relationships with botanic gardens staff and management.

I have recently forwarded a paper to the BGANZ Secretariat expressing the Association's perspective on a membership of BGANZ. The AFBG would of course remain autonomous.

A report on the BGANZ conference will be in the next publication of *Campsis* in May.

Communication Matters:

- We will endeavour to conduct as much Association business as is appropriate by e-mail.
- For Members without E-mail, normal mail communications will continue.
- Would members not having a fixed 'Friends' address, please consider applying for PO BOX. Formal contact is then assured regardless of committee changes, E-mail errors or member holidays.
- To receive *Campsis* -by E-mail, please E-mail Amanda King to confirm a preferred E-mail address.
- Please check your details on the Association Website and advise the Web editor of changes **ASAP**.
- *Campsis* back pages list the Association Committee and contact details, websites, *Campsis* and Membership information and an events Calendar.

*Looking forward to a bright future for Friends and Botanic Gardens!
Annie McGeachy.*

FUTURE DIRECTIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Members will recall that Sub-Committee was appointed in August last year to consider the future of the Association and to recommend appropriate alterations to the Statement of Purposes and Rules of the Association if these were considered necessary.

It became apparent that the Sub-Committee knew little about the Association's Membership making it impossible to formulate any recommendations. Consequently earlier this year we sent all Members two questionnaires. The Sub-Committee was delighted to receive 22 of a possible 35 responses, giving us a much clearer picture of the membership base and the issues causing concern. Your information has been extremely helpful, making our task easier if still somewhat challenging! Thank you to all those who took the time respond.

Briefly, the issues highlighted were as follows –

- The need to increase the Association's visibility and relevance, particularly with government at all levels
- The inability of local councils/responsible bodies to understand and value a botanic garden as a community asset with heritage (where relevant) botanic, educational or tourist potential; thus the value and potential of Friends groups is often disregarded or underestimated.
- The need for the Association to increase its advocacy role on behalf of Members.
- The need for the Association to provide more support, guidance and advice in a range of areas e.g. constitution and incorporation matters, funding applications and how to increase and retain members' etc. etc.
- Insurance, in particular the difficulty in obtaining suitable affordable insurance.
- Communications and how these could be improved.

In response to the questionnaires, the Sub-Committee, as a priority, is developing a support/information kit for Members which we plan to launch at the next Association conference to be held at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne in September 2006. Members of the Future Directions Sub-Committee will speak on the contents of the kit during a conference session and possibly in conjunction with this, run some appropriate workshops.

The Association Rules and Purposes do require a review which will hopefully be completed within a few months. The suggested alterations would then be forwarded to the members for comment and will need to be ratified at a formal Association meeting.

The questionnaire responses also identified the progress commitment, innovation and energy contributed voluntarily by members to support their local Botanic Gardens and an improvement on many previous regional gardens management and communication situations.

Other questionnaire responses indicated:

- 16 respondents were from Victoria and 6 from other states.
- Between 75 and 90% of active and social members are over 50
- Active members make up between 5% and 50% regardless of the total membership size.
- 20 respondents were insured, revealing a mish mash of arrangements (2 were seeking it)
- Only 6 respondents had insurance cover under Council policy.
- 4 respondents did not have a gardener, curator or Council representation on their committee.
- All respondents were self funding and with access to Council grants.
- 11 respondents had a 'hands on' role.
- 16 respondents provided guiding services.
- 4 respondents indicated a role in schools' education.
- 6 respondents have a (tax deductible) Public Fund.

Janet Thompson
Convener Future Directions Sub Committee

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN INLAND BOTANIC GARDENS – MILDURA

The onset of the long awaited rains early in winter has turned our dust-bowl into a haven of green grass, making the aspect of the Gardens a very attractive one. Needless to say, the weeds also received a great boost, causing a big increase in maintenance requirements of our 49ha area for the Gardens' six employees.

A new, delightful feature in the Australian Summerhouse is a very beautiful ceiling created from various dried gum nuts, seed pods and other floral products providing much interest and pleasure to our visitors.

The historic shearing shed re-erected from a station property north of Balranald, by a team of skilled enthusiastic volunteers, is also proving to be a very popular function centre for conferences, weddings, exhibitions, parties etc. Named "Magenta in the Gardens" it is a great acquisition and the Nature Trail is now extended and links the new facility to the old 'Garnpang' homestead Information Centre. Larger functions are now held in "Magenta in the Gardens" and the tiny Friends' shop has been relocated to the main homestead room allowing more space for display and expansion.

On a rare drizzly day in September Mr Jeff Kennett unveiled a plaque in a delightful Asian arbour in our Gardens. The inscription is an acknowledgment of the contributions of Dame Elizabeth Murdoch and Mr Kennett to the development of the AIBG. Staff and volunteers enjoyed lunch with Mr and Mrs Kennett in "Magenta in the Gardens".

On October 7th "Movies under the Stars" will feature 'A Town Like Alice' (1956) with some local early history included in the program.

In late October the first Farmers Market organized by an independent committee will be trialled at the Gardens and if successful continued on a fortnightly basis.

A new "Buy a Brick" scheme is underway to pave the Laburnum Walk in the Asian section, whereby the donor can sponsor a named brick for \$10.00.

Problems of seepage that have arisen from the mini streams are being repaired and some of our stalwart rose dead-headers are continuing each Wednesday to help with maintenance in various beds.

The first Sunday of the month tractor train tours and light lunches continue to be successful and on September 4th a sausage sizzle enticed some families to enjoy Fathers' Day at the Gardens.

Our many volunteers continue to be very committed and recently more than ninety enjoyed a "Get to Know You" morning, where group or team leaders outlined some of the functions of each group. Combined with a barbeque lunch this was an enlightening and congenial event.

The roses were pruned in July and will be back to their blooming beauty for the OPEN DAY ON OCTOBER 30TH. There will be hourly train tours, barbeque lunches, morning and afternoon teas, a Rose Show, native flower display, entertainment and photographic display that will all contribute to a great day out.

Contributors AIBG Friends: Margaret H, Wilma B & Jenny E

FRIENDS OF THE PORTLAND BOTANIC GARDENS

October has arrived and with it the rabbits!! The wonderful rose gardens have to be covered with wire BUT, it does seem to be working and the plants are being given a chance to grow.

We have applied for many grants, but seem to miss out, which is very unfortunate. The Friends have therefore decided to spend some of the money we have raised on returning the front bed inside our front gates to its original state. The bed has been cleared, a Bhutan Cypress is being sought and the TAFE Horticultural group in town has been organised to help with the planting. Needless to say we are pretty pleased with our efforts being such a young group.

The gardens had quite a problem with Horsetail and the beds had to have a huge amount of soil dug out and replaced. This has been done and it won't be known for 12 months if it has been successful or not.

Our growing group has benefited greatly from some "young blood" and not only have they potted up lots of interesting things to sell but are having regular informative talks from the Gardens staff.

A Champagne Brunch is to be held on October 23rd as a family function to both welcome and encourage our younger members.

THE FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS

With our constitution limiting the term of President to three years, Lorraine Powell stood down at our 2005 AGM in May but continues her active involvement with the Friends as convenor of the Growing Friends, our core sub-committee. The Growing Friends continue to raise funds for the development of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, with such funds until now directed towards the development of the Western beds. The Native Bed section was completed during the past year, the fragrant section recently completed and the final Asian section commenced. This has been a five year project which has seen the transformation of the garden beds adjoining the western (Gillies St.) border of the Gardens.

April marked the 10th Anniversary of the Robert Clark centre and Conservatory. Together with the co-tenants of the Centre we mounted a display of our activities and events over the past decade. We also co-sponsored the "Musical Moments" in the Conservatory over that weekend as well as catering for the evening function to celebrate this milestone.

The Engraving group continues to do great work producing labels for our Gardens and also on commission for other gardens, thereby adding to the funds raised by the Friends.

This past year saw the closing of a particular chapter in our group's history with the deaths of Jessie Scott and Roy Mosman. Both foundation members, their love for our Gardens was inspirational and selfless. Roy was still an active convenor of the History group at the time of his death. His work has now been taken up by a reformatted History/Information Technology group, which is working through the "Mosman Collection" to create a comprehensive database to ensure that this information is preserved for posterity.



Raoul D. Dixon: President

FRIENDS OF ALBURY BOTANIC GARDENS

On Australia Day Jan. 26th in conjunction with the Albury city council we screened the comedy movie "Strange Bedfellows". Some 300 people enjoyed laying back on the creek lawns slapping mosquitoes, laughing at Hogan & Caton's antics and munching their way through hot dogs and cold drinks, netting us a favourable profit.

The growing Group resurrected some 40,000 native tube stock from our Koori Wandoo Nursery and after repotting, have managed to sell on several thousand trees and grasses to a local plant farm and at the Sunday markets. A lot of work, but rewarding after the long haul.

Two Plant Sales in conjunction with Musical afternoons in the gardens and a final Clearance Spring Sale on 6th November should hopefully see us with space to start again.

Our statue of 'Melpomene' that had been pushed over and badly damaged last year, has been repaired and replicas made by a Sydney company. The statue was re-dedicated at a ceremony on March 10th.

We enjoyed a visit from the Benalla Friends in early May and are hoping to gather a group together for a visit to another garden later in the year. Two bus trips in tandem with our local Horticultural group to several local interesting and unusual gardens were well attended and a Christmas in July evening event also proved to be very popular.

A wildflower and Orchid stroll through the local hills around Albury astounded everyone present, with the variety of orchids and wildflowers seemingly everywhere underfoot.

The launch of our garden photographic competition which will run over 12 months will, we hope, provide us with photographs of the gardens which we plan to publish as souvenirs for sale. The Rose beds and Arbours are a blaze of colour and proving very popular for wedding party photographs and - our TEAHOUSE has finally made its way to the top of the master plan 'must do soon's'.

Happy gardening. Jeff Gates

THE FRIENDS OF BENALLA BOTANICAL GARDENS AND RIVERINE PARKLAND

The Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens and Riverine Parkland have this year enjoyed much progress and success.

This time last year John Hawker was guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting. John has had a long association with the Benalla Gardens. He identified the importance of completing some of the garden beds and other works on the Botanical Gardens Conservation plan, to help integrate our innovative new Rose Garden with the surrounding heritage landscape.

We were successful in securing a grant of \$35,000 from the Ledger Charitable Trust. Our first priority was to work on the garden beds surrounding the new Rose Garden area so that there is now metal edging around most of the beds and paths. We are working on the planting design for these beds with help from the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne (RBGM) and council staff. The remainder of the grant will be spent on lighting, seating and picnic tables and landscaping in the new Rotary BBQ Shelter area.

The Friends hold regular working bees to carry out a range of tasks, including planting, rose pruning, dividing plants for replanting and general maintenance as required, in consultation with council staff.

To ensure the greatest possible benefit from the grant we have sought expert advice. Richard Barley, Divisional Director of the (RBGM), visited at our request in April. Andrew Laidlaw, Landscape Architect at the RBGM, spent a day with us in June looking at ideas for the area. In September we arranged for Chris Dance, the landscape architect who designed the new Rose Garden, to look at the progress of the project and whether there is any fine-tuning needed.

Last November we planted the Salvia Collection donated to Benalla by the Geelong Botanic Gardens. Council recently organised for Sue Templeton, a world leader on salvias, to provide advice about the propagation, pruning and general care of our salvia collection. It was a very informative session for council staff and the Friends. Over the last year we have also done a lot of planting to improve the Mediterranean Collection.

Over the years, successive Friends committees have argued the need for a curator for the Gardens to bring a clear vision for the management, development and promotion of the Gardens across all levels of council. While this has not been achieved, the new Riverine Parkland and Botanical Gardens Advisory Committee to council is certainly a very positive step. With representatives from Council, the Catchment Management Authority, the Friends, the general community and the Director of the RBGM, the establishment of this committee is a great opportunity to provide strong recommendations to council on the future direction of the area.

Brian Chandler

FRIENDS OF ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE

It seemed an ambitious target when the Friends launched our Water Works Water Wise project in 2002. We undertook to fund extensions to the Gardens Automatic Irrigation System and then to provide irrigation for the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden. Now the final instalment has been paid. Of the total cost of \$96,995, the Friends raised \$66,995 and our Trust Fund contributed the balance of \$30,000.

The Gardens have placed much importance on strategic water management and have reduced consumption by 60 per cent since the automatic irrigation system was installed in 1994-95, two years ahead of the original target

On another front, Waste Wise measures have produced both environmental and economic benefits. For instance, during 2003-04 the RBG recycled 6000 cubic metres of green waste. It also reduced by 54 per cent the amount of waste sent to land fill compared to the previous year.

Saving is also the aim of the Millennium Seed Bank Project initiated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. RBG Melbourne has just become a partner in this international program to safeguard plant species facing extinction. Scientists from our National Herbarium will focus on the conservation of Victorian indigenous rare and threatened flora through seed collection and long-term storage. RBG Melbourne is to collect at least 4000 seeds of 100 species per year until 2010. Major funding will be provided by Kew with additional assistance from the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The RBG's Chief Botanist, Prof Jim Ross, will retire at the end of 2005. His scholarly direction of the National Herbarium for more than 20 years and especially the renaissance in scientific activities that he has led during the past decade, together with his academic contributions to botanical science, have been outstanding.

The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden celebrates its first anniversary in October, refreshed and renewed after its scheduled winter closure. Two new structures have been added – an open Activity Shelter and a Tree Tower. The garden has attracted approximately 150,000 visitors since it opened, with a team of trained volunteers giving essential daily support. RBG's Education Branch conducts many programs there for school groups, while activities for visitors combine fun with an underlying environmental message. The overwhelming success of this garden has increased demand for toilets, and more are being constructed in its vicinity as part of a program to improve these facilities at RBG Melbourne.

The Gardens organised a Spring Open Day on Sunday 9 October to coincide with the Growing Friends two-day plant sale that weekend. The efforts of our devoted plant-growers were rewarded with a profit of \$30,149, the highest on record. The RBG's program of access and entertainment, with guided walks beginning and ending at our sale, certainly swelled our customer numbers.

The timing in 2006 of our autumn plant sale has been the subject of much discussion, being squeezed by the Commonwealth Games, the Grand Prix and the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. Finally it has been decided to bring it forward to 4 and 5 March.

The impact of the Games is becoming clearer, in particular because the road cycling event will use roads surrounding the Gardens, including Birdwood Avenue. Most of the staff car park and all of Southern Cross Lawn will be taken over for Games facilities, access to the Friends' Gate Lodge may be limited and Botanical Illustration classes are likely to be suspended.

The Botanical Illustrators have achieved prominence in September through their Illustrated Garden project, a florilegium of plants growing in the RBG. The first series of these paintings, documenting the magnificence of the RBG's oaks, was exhibited between 26 and 30 September to coincide with the Voluntary Guides national conference. A Friends function combined a talk and guided walk through the display with a visit to the living oak collection in the Gardens. Prints of the artists' Quercus paintings, together with cards, calendars and bookmarks featuring some of the oak illustrations, sold well to conference delegates and members of the public during the exhibition.

Once again the Illustrators have produced a Christmas card for the Friends, this time featuring a white lily painted by Bernadette Lim. Please phone the Friends' office on 03 9650 6398 if you'd like further details.

Two of our artists have received important recognition recently. Jean Dennis was commissioned by RBG Kew to paint a *Brachichyton*, and John Pastoriza Pinol was awarded a Gold Medal at the Winter Exhibition of the Royal Horticultural Society in London.

The Gardens Shop has introduced an Artists in Residence program, enabling visitors to meet and watch botanical and wildlife artists at work.

Markets in the Gardens will be held once again in an extended trial until autumn; 12 November and 10 December are the next scheduled dates.

Mr David Adam, Chairman of the RBG Board for the past eight eventful years, has retired, and been succeeded by Ms Elaine Canty. She will be guest speaker following the Friends annual meeting on 7 November. Mr Michael Hamson and Ms Judy Backhouse have also recently joined the Board.

In 2004-05, the Friends distributed \$33,800 to the RBG and the Treasurer reports an increased surplus. As always, our satisfaction about membership gains is diminished by the number of non-renewals. (Members unfinancial for three months or more are deemed to be no longer members.)

There was a modest increase in annual subscriptions from 1 July to cover higher costs: now \$60 for households, \$41 for individuals and \$30 for concession categories. New advertising rates have been approved for the insertion of flyers in issues of Botanic News.

We are sorry that Jean Woodger, assistant treasurer of the Friends for seven years, is moving to NSW and will leave us at the end of October.

Regular quarterly activities introduced over the past year or so have proved popular: a guided 'insiders' walk in the Gardens, an informal 'Talking Plants' morning with 'show and tell' and a 'Fit Friends Ramble' somewhere in Melbourne. Another popular winter event is our morning tea and video show. In June we screened videos of the RHS garden Wisley, and the garden designed by Russell Page on Ischia for Sir William Walton. VCR and DVD copies of these and many other films on plants and animals were on offer with the Friends receiving 20 per cent of all sales. Contact the Friends' office for details of this good

We'll wind up 2005 with Christmas dinner at the Alexandra Club on 29 November, when ebullient writer Sarah Guest will be our speaker.

Bary Dowling, another writer who generously devoted much time to the Gardens, has died and is greatly missed. His knowledge of birds, in particular, marked his contribution as a Voluntary Guide, and he wrote for several issues of the Friends' Botanic Magazine. Bary's observations of the natural world attracted many readers to his regular column in *The Age*.

Heather Ironmonger

FRIENDS OF WOMBAT HILL BOTANIC GARDENS

As we come up to our 10th anniversary, Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens in Daylesford are delighted to report significant developments this year.

Hepburn Shire Council has agreed to appoint an Advisory Committee for the Gardens which will assist in the preparation of a management plan and develop a priority list of conservation and development projects. Friends will also conduct an annual visitor survey which will inform efforts to make the Gardens more user-friendly for our community and for visitors.

The guiding document will be the Jill Orr-Young Conservation and Management Plan 1995/7 which has now been formally adopted.

The committee will comprise 9 members and the ward councillor chairperson. Nominations for 2 community and 3 Friends representatives will be appointed in mid-October. We hope this long awaited committee will safeguard the Gardens from inappropriate works in the future and help us to work towards projects for a sesquicentenary celebration in 2013.

The restoration of the Pioneer Tower has been completed and the tower was reopened several months ago. There are plans for a re-dedication of the tower, in conjunction with Daylesford Historical Society, which it is hoped will take place on the anniversary of the original opening in November 1938.

Council has secured a grant of \$10,000 to develop Information and Signage boards for the Gardens by September 2005. Friends' members have researched history and images for the text of the boards with the assistance of our Heritage Officer and the Daylesford Museum.

We are very excited at the results. There will be a main map and information board at the car park, three smaller boards at the pedestrian entrances to the Gardens and interpretive signage at the Alf Headland Conservatory devoted to the seasonal begonia display. The material collected will be available to develop a Gardens section on the website for Hepburn Shire and for a new pamphlet guide in due course.

The much needed new toilet block in the lower Gardens, adjacent to the kiosk, is nearing completion and will have disabled access and baby change facilities. It has been designed by local architect Clinton Krause and sits kindly against the cherry laurel hedging.

Last month we welcomed a visit from John Hawker, Heritage Victoria, to discuss with Gardens staff, Council officer and Friends, the management of our ageing tree collection. Our Gardens is most famous for its collection of conifers and in common with most botanical gardens, especially regional ones which may have suffered neglect in the past, this is an important and expensive part of their ongoing management.

We have welcomed other groups to Wombat Hill this year and some have used our Friends guides. The exchange of ideas over coffee is always helpful, as is the making of new friends. Our visit to Castlemaine B.G. and Tute's Cottage was most enjoyable also. Our next outing will be with the Daylesford Horticultural group to the great gardens of Beaufort, Belmont, Eurembene and Mawollock later this month.

Our AGM next week will be followed by speaker Bernie Joyce, Senior Fellow, Earth Sciences, Melbourne University who will talk about the volcanoes of the Central Highlands. We look forward to this especially as our Gardens sit upon the extinct volcanic cone of Wombat Hill!

With best wishes to all friends groups!

FRIENDS OF CASTLEMAINE BOTANIC GARDENS

The past two years have been very frustrating for us. We have seen a change of Manager - Parks & Gardens, a CEO and now the Manager of Technical Services. Having to start up new relationships is not easy and unfortunately, we have been prevented from advancing our projects.

We have completed the study of recommendations for returning our Rose Garden to its original state. We have been helped in this endeavour by the Rose Society of Victoria, who were very excited to discover a 1960's garden containing many roses that are no longer commercially available and also planted in alphabetical order!

However, two years later, we still do not have a stated position from the Shire for this project.

Trish Addis: Secretary

THE EUROBODALLA REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Batemans Bay, South Coast, New South Wales

The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens operates under the auspices of the Eurobodalla Shire Council, with 2 _ equivalent full time staff and a great band of Friends and volunteers.

The Friends and volunteers possess an amazing range of skills – from management to marketing and mowing, from weeding and watering to guided walking, from carpentry to computers, from making pathways to propagation or parking directors – there is almost nothing they cannot do. Without them there would be no Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens.

Some of the latest projects in the Gardens are:-

The Dune Garden

This is a simulated coastal sand dune, planted with species occurring naturally on the local beach systems. The aim is to demonstrate the usefulness of local species in dune regeneration and re-vegetation, aiming particularly at the regional coastal Landcare groups. It is an attempt to encourage groups to move away from the standard re-vegetation species (even though many may be native to Australia) that do not grow on this stretch of South Coast New South Wales. There is a small corner devoted to carefully monitored weeds. The Dune Garden serves as an identification tool, as all the plants are labelled.

The Xeriscape Garden

The idea for the Xeriscape Garden rose as a consequence of the drought years. It is an attempt to show domestic gardeners how the local plant species (flowering shrubs, grasses and sedges), types of mulch and methods of irrigation, can be used in a water wise fashion to make an interesting garden, taking advantage of natural landforms that might occur within the boundaries of a suburban block.

The Sensory Garden

Work is about to begin on this Garden that will become part of the one kilometre Limited Mobility Walk. It will consist of raised beds containing plants, rock and water features, paths and edgings, all having some sensory benefit, either touch, smell or hearing. The pathways in the Sensory Garden will lead the visitor into an adjacent Rainforest Garden – design yet to be finalised.

The Bird Hide

Visitors with limited mobility will be able to access the Bird Hide and from there, watch birds on and around the small lake system viewed through the opening. There are also plantings to attract nectar loving birds and insects in the forest at the rear of the Hide.

The Arboretum

The Arboretum is a beautiful section of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. Individual trees are purchased by members of the public, either in memory of a loved one, as a gift, or to commemorate a significant occasion. Naturally only local species are planted in the Arboretum. The trees are surrounded by lawns and massed shrubs in beds around the margin, making a beautifully serene garden, full of birds and blossom, with delightful vistas, and places to sit and contemplate.

These are a few of the special features of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens that make it one of the show places on the New South Wales south coast. Apart from some professional design and contract earth moving and the like, all the work has been done by the magnificent Friends and volunteers.

FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

We are looking forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary on Sunday 27th November with an Expo show casing the Botanic Gardens and the many visitor services provided by the Friends. Four Deakin University final year marketing students offered us their resources to raise awareness of the Botanic Gardens and particularly the Friends, by organising this event. The students have produced an excellent brochure to promote the event and another to obtain sponsorships. The Expo will include a Botanic Art Exhibition, tours, displays by other horticultural and environmental groups who use the GBG as their base, music and the opening the GBG Heritage Trail. It has been a great experience to work with the enthusiastic students.

Six of our voluntary guides attended the recent Conference of Voluntary Guides in Botanic Gardens held at RBG, Melbourne. Four of our guides had not attended one of these conferences before and were given assistance with their registration fees by the Friends. It is strong policy within the FGBG to assist with education at all levels and support our volunteers wherever possible. The Conference was excellent and of great benefit to all delegates.

FGBG took a display to the ABC Gardening Show, held at the Caulfield Racecourse at the end of September. We found it a wonderful way to promote the GBG and Geelong.

Two members of FGBG and four staff members will attend the 2nd BGANZ Congress to be held in Hobart at the end of the month. The program looks excellent with The Eden Project to be featured. The themes to be discussed are environmental sustainability for botanic gardens, weeds and the urban ecology, collections into the future and environmental education. FGBG work in partnership with Gardens Management and it is most important that we show our support for BGANZ as it discusses future directions and responsibilities of those connected with Botanic Gardens. In regional areas this means Friends Groups.

We are looking forward to our February Twilight Music Program. We have organised an evening of Jazz, another of Irish music and a third of classical music. We always keep our fingers crossed for fine weather.

Jayne Salmon

FRIENDS OF ORANGE BOTANIC GARDENS

Spring is bursting out all over in the Gardens with bees buzzing and blossoms everywhere. The Silver Birch Lawn looks wonderful with an under-planting of masses of daffodils, jonquils and snow flakes all nodding in the breeze.

The highlight of the past six months was the Winter Seminar held in August. We had two guest speakers, first was Richard Bird from Armidale. He collects antique tools and his business, The Old Mole, makes and sells reproduction tools and accessories of a bygone age. Of great interest was a leather horse slipper. Horses used for pulling early lawn movers wore them to prevent their shoes marking the sward.

The second speaker was Ingrid Nemetz, a breeder of perennial hellebores. The beauty of hellebores is becoming more and more appreciated by gardeners and her advice and knowledge on how to grow them successfully was listened to very intently. Ingrid brought a selection of hellebores from her specialist nursery in Bilpin to sell and went home empty handed.

We are receiving more and more requests for guided walks from garden groups visiting Orange for times other than our regular guided walks held on the first Sunday of the month. A number of Friends have started training as Garden Guides and their assistance will be very welcome especially for weekday walks.

Work in the Gardens by the Friends has included replanting the Sensory Garden as many of the original plants were looking past their prime. There has been additional planting and pruning in the Peace Walk and in the Biblical Garden.

A social evening for Friends to meet and get to know each other will be held in November and called 'Friends Happy Hour' – a chance to have a bit of Christmas cheer and look back on a productive year, before the overload of Christmas parties start.

Margaret Weaver: Secretary

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

Despite the wet weather limiting our outdoor activities a great deal of useful effort went into research and planning by the committee.

At our AGM we were fortunate to have John Arnott, Curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens come to talk to us. We were inspired to learn of the planning and execution of their 21st Century Garden, the changes that it brought about and the importance today of water conservation in garden design.

Pat Varley continues her research into the Lone Pine history and has discovered a 'child' of our original tree. It is growing at Ballangeich near Warrnambool. It seems fitting that the tree was grown by an ex-serviceman, Alan Strain, on his soldier settlement block. It came from a cone given to him by our early curator Laurence McPhee.

Last August the Committee reaffirmed its main purpose "to maintain and develop Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden. These Gardens, now registered by the National Trust, were established in 1869. They were developed to a plan designed by William Guilfoyle and for 136 years the Council and citizens of Warrnambool have retained and maintained them".

TAFE Diploma students conducted activities for the aged and the disabled in the gardens and on other occasions organised games for tiny tots and preschool children. Rob Wallis, one of our members gave a fascinating talk on Ferdinand von Mueller. The Wood turners have been able to preserve some of our ancient and historic timber as bowls, pens and special souvenirs.

A new brochure has been printed, thanks to Mandy King's excellent compiling and photography. We look forward to distributing it throughout the district and to other Friends' groups. We applied for and gained finance from the district Community Grant to assist with printing costs.

An enormous amount of unseen work in maintaining a data base has been undertaken by our Secretary. A conservative estimate of the volunteer contribution from 'The Friends' to the Gardens would be between 1000 and 1500 hours each year. Like all voluntary organizations we have the challenge to renew, to revitalise and to survive.

In the course of the year a new Council was elected, a new committee structure was created, our Director of Physical Services left to take up a position in Geelong and a long serving senior Gardener retired. We thank them for their work over many years. The staff work hard, but there is no dedicated curator to assist or direct them and this is a serious impediment to garden development. Our current Director of Physical Services has supported a good working relationship with the Friends and we are grateful for that. But we still need a curator. The importance of this was stressed by John Arnott, who also advocated a close working relationship with Friends Groups

It is disappointing that the Conservation and Management plan for the Gardens (which recommends the appointment of a curator) has taken so long to be accepted. Initially tendered in September 2003 and scheduled for submission to Council late in 2003, it is in danger of becoming irrelevant. The Friends identified their first priority being the appointment of an appropriate person to manage our very valuable asset, our trees and our heritage.

Preserving our Heritage: The urns are now being stabilised with the aid of a grant from Heritage Victoria and much research by Marie Johnson. We are delighted with the new wrought-iron gates, made to our design and installed at the Fernery. The Growing Friends are replanting the Fernery with ferns indigenous to the Otway Ranges under the guidance of Lorraine Deppeler, an expert in the field. These have been carefully selected and are being planted around the already well established earlier ferns. Our new native garden which showcases flora of South Western Victoria flowered in September. The 'old Stump' is reserved as a relic of the original plantings attributable to Mueller.

The WCC with the help of the Friends have applied for the Australian Government's Community water grants. "This project will enhance the efficiency of irrigating at the Botanic Gardens. An extension to the existing water service is the first stage of progressing to an automated watering system for the Gardens. By providing a computer controlled watering system, measured amounts of water will be delivered when and where required."



FRIENDS OF THE MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens are being transformed again with the development of Stage 2 major construction works, jointly funded by a Queensland Government Regional Centres grant and Mackay City Council. Heavy earthmoving machinery has invaded the tranquil slopes of the lagoon and reshaped the steep embankment in preparation for the building of a new precinct and gardens. Hundreds of cubic metres of river loam have been moved and stockpiled for reuse in the new gardens. The dry bed of the lagoon has also been transformed with channels and ponds as part of the Monsoon Waterway and surrounding gardens which will house the plants of the northern and mountainous rainforests of the surrounding region. Waterfalls will cascade down the slope from a water recycling outlet which will aerate the water and then pass through a series of constructed wetlands to filter the water before re-entering the existing lagoons. Water plants will be planted in the wetlands to display the diversity of species found within the Queensland Central Coast Bioregion.

One of the most exciting items in Stage 2 is a Coal Garden, interpreting the development of the planet with the pathway “fossils” showing the tectonic plates of the earth’s transformation through the dinosaur era - complete with impressions from dinosaur fossils loaned from the Queensland Museum, impressions of the gymnosperms through to the angiosperms and the habitation of man onto the land. The Friends joined the contractors and Gardens staff to participate in this process, with pawprints, old horseshoe prints, and Adam and Eve footprints blending into the population of the earth by mankind. When completed the education tour through the garden will tell the story of the development of coal, the major industry of the Mackay hinterland.

Planting of the gardens in Stage 2 will be arranged to ensure that the Garden Friends, staff and local community groups can participate fully. Maintenance of each garden is important following the planting, and current severe water restrictions mean that staged planting will be able to be maintained without overusing the resources.

This exciting development will provide the visitor with an additional 2 kilometres of pathways to wander through and explore this unique and fully planned garden.

The Friends have continued to hold planting bees throughout the year. Eight employees of Lend Lease gathered at the Gardens on 29th September to plant native vegetation to support the lagoons increasing bird and wildlife, assisted by 5 Garden Friends. This was part of Lend Lease Community Day, when employees from Lend Lease companies in Australia and around the world donate a day of their time, skills and enthusiasm to support local communities. We were thrilled they chose to come to our Gardens, and look forward to their return at some future stage.

The weather was very unkind to us for the major outdoor function of the year in July. About 5000 people had been expected for *Global Grooves* a multicultural day to end the Mackay Festival of Arts. This event had to be transferred to other indoor venues because of wind and rain, so we are hoping for better luck next year.

Well known local artist Glen Skien was in residence for a month, holding several printmaking workshops for children, and producing lovely etchings of the local plants. Chris Neely is a watercolour artist who paints the birdlife at the Gardens, and has generated much interest. Both artists have exhibited in the Lagoons Gallery during the year.

Our very enthusiastic Visitor Services Officer Dale Arvidsson continues to organise events for the Gardens, including a Picnic in the Gardens, and Opera in the Gardens, as well as birthday celebrations earlier in the year. Dale has done an excellent job in building the website for the Gardens, and frequently updates it with new photos and current items of interest. Do take a look at the site:

www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au

Friends are anticipating a quiet time over the hot summer months, with a Christmas breakup in late November and *Carols in the Gardens* a week before Christmas the only events remaining on this year’s calendar.

Robin McWhinney
Secretary

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

President: Alex Smart
RBGM Cranbourne

Vice-President: Janet Thomson
RBGM.

Secretary: Annie McGeachy
Public Officer Annie McGeachy
Geelong

Treasurer: David Baumgartner

Immediate Past President: Pauline Wicksteed
Canberra

Committee:
Ballarat Judith Bailey,
Hamilton Catherine Drew
Warrnambool Amanda King
Karwarra Denise Payne

Website editor: Judith Bailey
Newsletter: Amanda King
Annie McGeachy

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc
www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

Postal Address:
The Secretary
16 Pavo St, Belmont, Vic. 3216

Email: anniemcg@sunet.com.au
Telephone: 03 5243 7728
Fax: 03 3243 7180
Website: friendsbotanicgardens.org

Campsis

Campsis is published twice a year in
May and November.

We welcome your articles, photographs and
important calendar events for inclusion in
the next issue

To ensure publication, please send articles by mid
March and mid September to arrive approximately 6
weeks prior to publication.

Forward *Campsis* material only to:

Amanda King: e-mail aking@eftel.net.au
OR by post to
P.O Box 987, Warrnambool VIC 3280

Editor & Printing Annie McGeachy
Format & Processing Amanda King.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Visit the Association of Friends web site:

www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/ and 'click' on events.

To include your event on the website contact the Web
editor

E-mail clrdnobs@vic.chariot.net.au

OR for those without E-mail, post details to the Secretary.

2005

BGANZ Congress in Hobart

October Friday 26th-Monday 31st

2006

Association of Botanic Gardens Conference

Cranbourne Botanic Gardens

September Friday 15th- Sunday 17th

International Pelargonium & Geranium Conference

Geelong Botanic Gardens

October Friday 30th -Sunday November 2nd

Details:

www.friendsgbg.com/Conference/pelargonium2006.htm

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/

Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens
(BGANZ)

www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/newsletter for access to the
online Newsletter; *The Botanic Garden*.

To receive an electronic edition register your Friends
group E-mail address with CHABG's secretariat in
Canberra.

E-mail Virginia.Berger@deh.gov.au.

www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/ Garden History
Society

www.anbg.gov.au/anbg/ Australian National Botanic
Garden

www.bgci.org.uk/

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

www.bgci.org/botanic_gardens/findgarden2.html

A good gardens information site - if you are travelling

botanic_gardens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

This site has been created for 'garden' people only. Go to
this site and request to join. You will be able to ask for
information, receive feed back and share your knowledge
with 50 other garden enthusiasts.

The site is protected and monitored by Amanda King.

© The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens. The views expressed
by contributors are not necessarily those of Association of Friends of
Botanic Gardens Committee. Neither the Association Committee nor
the Association members accepts responsibility for statements or

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc. is for 12 months from January. 1st.
New memberships paid after August 1st are valid until December 31st of the following year.

Membership fees are \$25

Cheques or Money Orders should be made payable to:

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

Applications and renewals should be sent to

The Secretary,
16 Pavo St Belmont. VIC 3216

Application and membership renewal forms will be available on the website shortly.

The form will be posted to members without e-mail contact.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS 2005

Friends of Alfred Nicholas Gardens Sherbrooke Road, Sherbrooke, Vic, 3789
Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens Inc. P 0 Box 323, Albury, NSW, 2640
Friends of the Arid Lands Botanic Garden Inc. P 0 Box 2040, Port Augusta, SA, 5700
Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Garden P 0 Box 2809, Mildura, Vic, 3502
Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc. GPO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT, 2601
Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc. P 0 Box 33W, Ballarat West, Vic, 3353
Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens Inc. P 0 Box 589, Benalla, Vic, 3671
Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens P 0 Box 117, Strathdale, Vic, 3500
Friends of Bumley Gardens Inc. C/o Bumley College, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond, Vic, 3121
Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Inc. P 0 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 0 Box 36435, Winnellie, NT, 0821
Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens Inc. P 0 Box 1068, Batemans Bay, NSW, 2536
Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc. P 0 Box 235, Geelong, Vic, 3220
Friends of George Pentland Botanic Gardens C/o Mr David Gray, Davey St, Frankston, Vic 3199
Friends of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens Inc. P 0 Box 564, Gisborne, Vic, 3437
Friends of the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens Inc. P 0 Box 5653, Gold Coast Mail Centre, Qld, 9720.
Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc. P 0 Box 43, Hamilton, Vic, 3300
Friends of Karwarra Australian Plant Garden Inc. 1 Toorak Road, Mt Dandenong, Vic, 3767
Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Friends Association 96 Donaldson Street, Mackay, Qld, 4740
Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens Inc. C/o P 0 Box 1520, West Melton, Vic, 3337
Friends of the Olive Pink Botanic Garden P 0 Box 8644, Alice Springs, NT, 0871
Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens P 0 Box 17, Orange, NSW, 2800
Friends of the Port Fairy Botanical Gardens P 0 Box 229, Port Fairy, Vic, 3284
Friends of the Portland Botanic Gardens P 0 Box 1031, Portland, Vic, 3305
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, Canopy Lane Rose Nursery RMB233, St Arnaud, Vic, 3478
Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens P 0 Box 1089, Elwood, Vic, 3184
Friends of the Grounds The University of Melbourne, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic, 3052
Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc. P 0 Box 1190, Warrnambool, Vic, 3280
Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc. P 0 Box 412, Berwick, Vic, 3806
Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens P 0 Box 267, Daylesford, Vic, 3460
Greater Shepparton Gardens Association Inc. 5 Gina Court, Shepparton, Vic, 3630
The Tasmanian Arboretum Inc. P 0 Box 370, Devonport, Tas, 7310

NEW MEMBERS

Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens P.O Box 1393 Tamworth NSW.2340