



Campsis

NEWSLETTER

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

ISSN 1320-8578 AOO26805Z

No. 29

September 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Botanic Gardens and Plant Conservation

Many botanic gardens are involved in conserving rare or threatened plants. A wonderful success story is the involvement of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne with *Acacia leprosa* "Scarlet Blaze". In 1995 a single specimen of this striking red flowered Cinnamon Wattle was found by bushwalkers in state forest in the Kinglake area north east of Melbourne.



Acacia leprosa

to be selected as Victoria's floral emblem for the Centenary of Federation celebrations.

Plant conservation staff from the RBG Melbourne were able to propagate cuttings and the plant was registered under plant breeders rights as *Acacia leprosa* "Scarlet Blaze". Perhaps this will be seen as one of the most surprising and significant discoveries of twentieth century Australian horticulture.

With the demise of the single specimen in the wild the conservation at RBG Melbourne became work critically important.

The success of that work enabled this plant

Now in commercial production plants are available in native plant nurseries for around \$20. It will grow to 4 or 5 metres in full sun or dappled shade in well drained moist soil and does not need to be pruned. It can make a spectacular ornamental garden specimen.

Alex Smart

(President of Friends of RBG Cranbourne)

FROM THE SECRETARY

The latest member welcomed to the Association network,-encouraged by Wellington City Council/Gippsland, is the volunteer group supporting Sale Botanical Gardens. While not known as a formal Friends group to date, they are active workers and supporters of the Sale gardens.

It is wonderful to read articles of final success after years of persistence and effort, that sometimes seemed pointless- in particular –Warrnambool and Wombat Hill Friends.

Two Committee members attended the Australasian Guides Conference in Adelaide September 24th-28th and enjoyed stimulating speakers and themed walks of the three gardens that comprise Adelaide Botanic Gardens; Adelaide, Wittunga native garden and Mt Lofty. The interesting walks were very ably presented by the Adelaide guides.

A personal highlight was the sight of a 2-3 metre Wollemi pine, *Wollemia nobilis* displaying both male and female cones and a perfectly symmetrical ‘monkey puzzle’ *Araucaria araucana* about the same size

At the guide representatives meeting, the Association discussion paper/proposal for combining the Guides Conference and the Association of Friends Conference was presented. The aim of the proposal is to reduce the number of Friends/Guides related conferences to one conference to be held in alternate years. The discussion paper identifies related issues that would need to be considered and addressed for the change to be achieved.

The proposal received limited support at the meeting, possibly due to the varying arrangements of the major guides groups. However guides representatives were asked to address the proposal with their particular members and respond with a considered opinion, to allow a decision to be made at the Association Conference at Orange NSW in April 2008. The discussion paper will be forwarded to those Friends/Guides groups not represented at the meeting.

I have also had the pleasure of representing the Association at the 3rd Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand Congress(BGANZ), the first to be held in New Zealand and.

attended a meeting with Friends from Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton and Whangarei representative from Sydney And Adelaide were also present.

The New Zealand Friends were pleased to hear about the Association of Friends network there being no net work in New Zealand- and the Association relationship with BGANZ. Possibilities of a NZ network or relationship with the Association were briefly raised. (See article).

NB. BGANZ new web site is now operating www.bganz.org.au
The latest Grants guide www.heritage.vic.gov.au/page.asp?ID=417

Annie McGeachy

BGANZ CONGRESS, Oct 11-14th Hamilton Botanic Gardens, New Zealand

More than 90 delegates were welcomed by Peter Sergel, Director of the Hamilton Gardens and treated to a superbly organised and presented conference. The excellent program, outstanding speakers, the camaraderie and a conference dinner by the river- that included some entertaining theories from after dinner speaker Dr. Tim Entwisle- made for a very satisfying and informative few days.

The number and quality of speakers and the parallel program streams made it difficult to select those to attend and those to report- I have selected a few.

The Conference Theme was 'Partnerships' and speakers covered the numerous aspects and potential of botanic gardens partnerships at international, national, regional and local levels.

Keynote : Brien O'Neill, 'Involving the Community'
Superintendent of Golden Gate National Parks, San Francisco

Brien challenged us with -"how relevant are we to the diverse community we serve" and do we understand our community balance? He further expressed concern about the many children growing up with a nature 'deficit disorder', whose lives are disconnected from the outdoors.

In creating partnerships with the community, he referred to 'his rules of engagement'. Selecting the right partner, who might be interested in a project- that could be accomplished, managing the project using the right tools, educational messaging- or what do you want them to know? and 'breaking bread' or inclusive communication. Partnerships he said are incremental- creating attachment, understanding, causing action, commitment and advocacy and then sustained support. .

Keynote : Sarah Oldfield, 'International Conservation Partnership for Plants'
Secretary General of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) Kew,

"BGCI endeavours to mobilise botanic gardens and create partnerships with the wider conservation community in securing plant diversity for the well being of people and plants. There are 2000 Botanic Gardens worldwide in 150 countries.

The task of conserving the world's flora is far too great and diverse to be carried out by one garden, one country or even one continent. Biodiversity- is the diversity of flora at the level of genes species and ecosystems." BGCI has set an agenda for Botanic Gardens on Climate change.

BGCI and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation aims to halt the degradation of plant diversity through the development of outcomes to be achieved by 2010, a strategy that Botanic Gardens world wide have embraced.

She stressed the importance of regional plant conservation strategies in contributing to identifying the locations of world's plant collections and to the BGCI plant search data base.

To progress the international collaboration, BGCI and BGANZ are now developing a mechanism for partnerships and skill sharing with regional botanic gardens networks for South East and East Asia.

Dr Philip Moors *'Botanic Gardens & Communities'*
Director & Chief Executive of the RGB Melbourne and President of BGANZ,

BGANZ activities reflect both global and local connection to community. Two current projects are capacity building with the Asia Pacific Botanic Gardens and Visitor Service Benchmarking, a pilot project of 6 major Botanic Gardens in Australia and New Zealand. Subsequently there may be options for benchmarking projects with regional botanic gardens.

Dr Moors stated that Botanic Gardens are popular destinations, seen to be credible, enduring, organisations, respected as experts- who know their plants. It is important to utilise our key strengths in response to climate change and that Botanic Gardens develop a strategy to take the environmental message to Government and have this acknowledged at a national level.

National Climate change policy for Botanic Gardens and how we respond is Co-ordinated by BGANZ. It identifies key strategies for Botanic Gardens which include;

- o Stock take of the living collections we have
- o Connect with the web data base
- o Identify collections with conservation horticultural significance
- o Record the phenological impacts of global warming in gardens and actual habitats
- o Identify the key taxa of plants to monitor
- o Link these observations through BGANZ network.

Dr Moors stated Botanic Gardens have the capacity to change behaviour, through demonstration gardens, training community groups and volunteers, education modules, community partnerships and utilising visitation to -practice what we preach!

Scott Medbury, *"Outside the Fence"*
President, Brooklyn Botanic Gardens(BBG)

Scott amazed us with the innovative and extraordinary range of education programs that continue to operate from the BBG, in what must be a most difficult socioeconomic environment. Some of the most successful programs are 'the greenest block' attracting 250 residential and commercial entries and a Public Environmental Science High school opposite the gardens for underperforming children and the junior botanist and plant investigator programs. Other programs are designed to strengthen teachers skill set and 'how to use plants'.

As part of the BBG centennial in 2010 they plan to develop key program areas to "make New York a greener place and its citizens more knowledgeable stewards of the environment"

Dr Rodney Wilson, *'Drawing a Long Bow'* Current Museum Practice and its possible implication for Botanic Gardens.
Immediate past director of the Auckland War memorial Museum.

Dr Wilson presented an in depth paper- referring to the store house of inanimate treasure museums have been and been seen to be, how they have largely reinvented themselves, extending beyond the museum walls and bringing the collections alive. He referred to Botanic Gardens as museums -of living plants -but suggested there are opportunities for creative partnerships enabling richer interpretation of 'museum treasures' and their relationship and function in natural world.

The Gardens



A visit to both Hamilton and Auckland Botanic Gardens is highly recommended.

At Hamilton, apart from a large lake, charming water courses, and huge conservatory the overall theme of the Gardens is the history, context and meaning of gardens, which is explored through five collections of gardens, namely the Paradise Collection, Productive Gardens, Fantasy Gardens, Cultivar and Garden Landscapes

The Paradise collection of 6 walled gardens represents small garden traditions and was superbly executed. Displaying a Chinese scholars garden, English flowers, Japanese Contemplation, American Modernist, Italian Renaissance and the Indian Char

Bagh, where a wedding ceremony was in progress.

The food gardens included the yet to be completed Te Paraparae Maori food garden and the pre European Maori Horticulture explained by project leader Wiremu Puke.

The new Information Centre opened 2 months ago, is manned by the Friends of Hamilton Gardens who were also instrumental in gaining the substantial funding required for the construction.
ceremony

The Auckland Garden is much larger at 64 hectares and welcomes you through a stunning entrance and visitor centre proudly named Huakaiwaka. The rolling landscape, interesting theme gardens, (shell banks and salt marsh in the threatened native gardens), Potter children's garden based on a Maori legend, fascinating innovative signage and beautiful Maori sculpture. Unfortunately we were a week early for the installation of a number of new sculptures by significant artists.



Char Bagh garden- wedding ceremony



Giant puriri nest in the children's garden

Both Hamilton and Auckland gardens displayed an enviable standard in their landscaping features, collections maintenance, structures and waterways -and the green lush vigorous growth!.-



Maori sculpture at entrance to threatened native plants

I acknowledge with thanks the assistance I received for my registration fees, from the BGANZ. NZ Congress Committee and the Association of Friends and for my accommodation and local transport, by generous Friends, Ellaby & Pam and Marjorie- President of the Hamilton Friends.

Mackay Regional Botanic Garden has been set a serious challenge for hosting the BGANZ Congress in 2009.

*Annie McGeachy
Secretary*

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

Western District, Victoria

This year under the enthusiastic leadership of our newly appointed curator, John Sheely, the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens have flourished. Trees have been mulched and garden beds renewed and we have been fortunate in receiving good rains to maintain the green expanse of lawns. John has arranged a calendar of events involving the Friends in workshops on the first Wednesday of the month. To date, together with the staff of the gardens, they have taken part in planting of trees and annuals.

At our last AGM John gave us an extremely interesting talk about the heritage property “Swifts” at Darling Point Sydney, where he had worked for three years. At this meeting the many people present took the opportunity to congratulate Mandy who has just completed 10 years of service as Honorary Secretary. We thanked her for her dedicated and invaluable work. Mandy is the longest serving office bearer on the committee.

The roof of our fernery is in urgent need of repair. The original fernery dates back to 1888. It was rebuilt in 1938 and again in 1985. The fernery houses a special collection of Otway Plants and provides pleasure and information for the public. Repairs will be costly and we are looking at ways in which it could be funded.

Our other collection of local plants established in cooperation with Warrnambool & District Society for Growing Native Plants is now well established and together we have produced a brochure identifying these special plants such as *Correa reflexa* ‘Grannys Grave’ named for a well known Warrnambool location.

The bats are back, but in quite small numbers. They arrived around the beginning of August, returning to the Canary Island Palm they favoured on their previous visit a couple of years ago. They do not appear to be doing any harm and with our resident birds and bees add interest and variety.

Marigold Curtis

FRIENDS OF WOMBAT HILL BOTANIC GARDENS

Central Highlands, Victoria

The Friends have been active on several fronts during the past year and I am pleased to report that the future of the community’s Botanic Gardens has been strengthened. One of our longer term objectives is to promote and participate in planning for the Gardens 150th Anniversary in 2013, so it is relevant to be working towards this now.

In the last budget, Councillors agreed to fund a Management Plan for the Gardens; the second draft of this significant work has been completed and will soon be presented publicly for further community input. The final version will go to Council, we hope, for approval and adoption.

Through the activities of the Committee, we have worked with Council, Gardens Staff and Central Highlands Water in assisting Council to apply for a Federal Community Water Grant, in order that the Gardens might use wash water from the treatment plant instead of Town Water.

Our annual series of four Taylor and Sangster Lectures (initiated by Val Pyers) is ongoing and audience feedback has been positive.

Two Wollemi Pines, purchased by Council have now been planted in the Gardens.

Council invited expressions of interest for the kiosk and the Friends were represented on the interview panel. The 3 proposals were diverse and each wanted a long-term lease to recoup set-up costs. A recommendation was made to Council for a proposal that combined 7-day café, gardens- related retail and a food garden. However, Council deferred a decision until the Management Plan is adopted, the lease is negotiated with DSE and then further expressions of interest will be called for a long-term lease. It will be good to have the kiosk up and running again.

The Growing Friends have been active during the year: plant sales are our best source of income. The Friends bed Group continue to strengthen their relationship with Gardens Staff in sharing the common goal of conserving the Gardens and participating in planning for their future.

The Committee continues to establish connections with like-minded community groups in the region, and organize occasional excursions for member to visit garden and nurseries. Personally, I find the contact and information from these trips very useful for purposes relevant to the Gardens. Trentham's Cool Climate Nursery, for example, offered WHBG a collection of unusual maples, Mt Macedon's Stephen Ryan advised us about appropriate plants for the Gardens.

It has been a productive year for the Friends, due largely to the commitment of our executive and Committee. Everyone has been active in some aspect of caring for the Botanic Gardens and their future.

Carol Hofmeyer, Penny Burt and Julie Begg have each retired from the Committee, so we wish them all well.

*R. Wilkinson,
President*

FRIENDS OF TAMWORTH REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN Western Region, NSW

Although it passed with little fanfare, The Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden were very proud to have reached a major milestone last year, namely the tenth anniversary of their inauguration in August 2005. In this relatively short time span, amazing progress has been achieved in the development of the botanic garden in Tamworth.

The initial committee was elected following an inaugural public meeting held in July 1995, and the group became an incorporated association in August 1996. The committee's first fund raising idea was to hold annual open days incorporating plant sales. We have since conducted spring and autumn open days each year. However, owing to the extreme conditions of the current drought, recent sales have fallen and the 2007 autumn open day was cancelled.

Recent good rainfall has replenished the water supply and Tamworth Regional Council has eased water restrictions so we are hoping for a successful result at our spring open day in October 2007. In addition to plants propagated by the friends and plants surplus to council requirements, we have introduced a selection of good quality flowering native plants which are very popular and have resulted in an increase in profits from our plant sales. The installation of a donations box at the entrance to the garden has also boosted funds raised. Other funds have come from catering, private donations and grant funds.

Monthly working bees were commenced not long after the formation of the association, with the hope of actively involving members in the development of the gardens. Only a small percentage of members have attended the working bees over the years, but those attendees have been enthusiastic and have realized great satisfaction from their hands on involvement.

After just six years of establishment, the official opening ceremony was conducted in November 2001. At this stage some of the main projects which had been completed included an open air "bush chapel" and adjacent covered pergola, a "guitar shaped" rose garden, a pond with a waterfall and fountain, weed eradication and plant regeneration, walking trails, including a gateway to the adjacent Marsupial Park and an entrance complex incorporating a kiosk for refreshment sales, catering and visitor information, a covered entrance foyer and outdoor seating areas and toilets. Since then, development and construction of features and facilities included in the proposed layout of the gardens has continued. We have designed a visitors brochure and a plant species guide, have commenced identification of species with plaques and plant labels, a dam located within the grounds has been repaired and sealed, a new picnic shelter/lookout has been built and very shortly an impressive new entrance feature landscaped with native plants and incorporating a gazebo and three ponds with a water reticulation system, will be finished and officially "unveiled" in October 2007.

In November 2002, Tamworth City Council and the friends were awarded the Country Energy Tidy Towns Business Partnership Award. This award reflects the cooperative efforts which have resulted in the tremendous progress achieved to date. Government, local businesses, service clubs, community members, council management and staff and the friends have all worked together to make it possible. Tamworth Regional Council's vision is to incorporate the regional botanic garden, marsupial park (including bird aviary), miniature railway, and proposed Chinese and Japanese gardens, (which are all located adjacent to each other) into a major tourist attraction for Tamworth.

*Christine Reeves,
Publicity Officer*

FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS

Gold Fields Region, Victoria

This year is certainly a special one for the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and for the Friends as it is the 150th anniversary of the gazetting of the Gardens. The Friends have taken the lead in organising a series of innovative events during the latter part of this year.

We began with a celebratory dinner for about 110 invited guests who commenced with cocktails in the Conservatory then moving over to Pipers restaurant. The guest speaker for the night was landscape architect John Patrick., well known for his appearances on Peter Cundall's "Gardening Australia" TV programme. John gave an excellent talk on the theme of the relevance of Botanical Gardens not just for passive enjoyment but for the role they can and should take in the broader community. He also stressed the importance of looking to the future – to the next 150 years – and not to simply maintain existing gardens which might not be necessarily the most appropriate for future generations.

This occasion was also used as an opportunity to launch a very special calendar which the Friends have commissioned for 2008. The calendar comprises excellent photos of our famous Stoddart statues. These statues are temporarily held in the Conservatory for safe keeping since vandalism in 2002. With 12 statues in all, a different one is featured for each month. The calendar is certain to be a collector's item due to its high quality and the artistic manner in which it has been designed and printed. Calendars are available for sale for \$15 by contacting the Ballarat Friends, PO Box 33W, Ballarat West 3353.

The next event was the launch of gift cards based on the same statue photos. To publicise this event, one of Ballarat's historic trams was decorated. Invited guests travelled on this beside Lake Wendouree prior to the ceremonial handing over of the cards to Conservatory staff -who handle the card sales.



The third event – the highlight of the anniversary celebrations – was the planting of two trees Caledonian Pine *Araucaria columnaris*, by the Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser. Future events involve the Spring Floral Display in the Conservatory with historic memorabilia, including the original design competition plans for the Gardens which have recently been located and now professionally restored and framed, a Schools Exhibition, and a Ballarat Fine Art Gallery feature on trees in art called "Why the Tree?"

State Governor, Professor David de Kretser, planting a Caledonian Pine.
From the left Raoul Dixon, Cr David Vendy, Acting Curator of the Gardens, Peter Marquand.

As well as these celebrations, the Friends are looking forward to the construction of our own premises which will be located behind the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre. This new building, to be completed by December, will be the base for plant sales and other Friends' activities and also our own meeting area for small groups.

Although rainfall is almost up to average for the year to date, storages are very low and we remain on Level 4 restrictions which mean no watering of domestic gardens with town water by any means. The Gardens have exemptions to maintain our historic trees but the flower beds remain unplanted for the present until –hopefully– alternate water supplies can be provided. Lake Wendouree was completely dry earlier this year but now resembles a Lake again, although the level is still very low.

Raoul D. Dixon
President.

AUSTRALIAN INLAND BOTANIC GARDENS MILDURA WENTWORTH

Wimmera & Mallee, Victoria

Activities in the Gardens

Friends are now carrying buckets of water to the newest plantings in the mallee nature trail, in keeping with the rest of the community now on severe water restrictions. The drippers are turned off and the plants of our region will have their drought survival attributes tested. Staff members are also concentrating on water conservation measures including weed removal and dripper maintenance.

Planting of all available species of rare and threatened plants for the region was completed in a designated bed during April. This project was years in planning and will be extended at every opportunity.

Last month the Gardens provided the venue for a successful production of “James and the Giant Peach”, a Roald Dahl story, performed by the Mildura Theatre Company and guest actors.

The Sunraysia Farmers Market Inc continues holding this popular event in the grounds, on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month. Friends volunteer for several duties and are rewarded by donations to the Gardens.

Controlled burn assessment project

On the western edge of our forty-nine hectare developed area of the Gardens is a sixty-hectare paddock set aside for the use of future generations. Natural vegetation is predominantly chenopod mallee; oil mallee *Eucalyptus oleosa*, yorrell *E. gracilis* and congoo mallee *E. dumosa* and several species of the chenopods in the understorey and grassland, for example bluebush, saltbush and copperburr. Other trees occurring are belah, *Casuarina pauper*, murray pine *Callitris sp.*, sugarwood *Myoporum platycarpum* and rosewood *Alectryon oleifolius*. Shrubs include sandhill wattle *Acacia ligulata*, needlewood *Hakea leucoptera*, hooked needlewood *H. tephrosperma*, hop bush *Dodonaea sp.* and cassia *Senna spp.*

Dry vegetative matter accumulated over the past seventeen years of exclusion of grazing animals poses a fire risk for the Gardens. In order to protect the Gardens from possible bush fires fanned by the harsh north-westerly winds that prevail during our hot, dry summers, we have embarked on a somewhat controversial project of periodic controlled burning. This is done in consultation with government departments and fire authorities.

Only the far western quarter of the area is to be frequently burned, a quarter will be infrequently burned and the larger area will remain (hopefully) free of the occurrence of fire. Fortunately for the Gardens, one of our volunteers is the Biodiversity Officer of the Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority and leads the ‘regrowth assessment’ project. Each of the three areas is to be assessed biannually for regrowth of plant species for comparative analysis.

Because of the drought the “frequent burn” is not at all frequent. At first envisaged to be an annual requirement, it is obvious that there has been almost zero

addition of dry matter since the first burn last year. A few species of annuals responded to minimal rainfall last spring, summer, autumn and winter, including introduced weeds such as barley grass, match heads, mustard weed and onion weed. Native species occurred more frequently along the observation lines, mostly chenopods, twinleaf and a couple of grasses. Almost all were small, weak plants due to insufficient soil moisture. We look forward to observing more species in the future after some much-needed rain.

Jenny Eagle
Friends' secretary

FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

Corio Bay, Victoria

On a very windy August 31st the restored Octagonal Rotunda C1916 located on a grassy knoll just to the north of the Geelong Botanic Gardens (GBG) was ceremoniously reopened by Cr. Barbara Abley. A brass band, school children, Friends and visitors acknowledged the work of the Friends in facilitating the restoration. A Heritage Grant enabled the work to take place. Friends have undertaken restoration or conservation of six significant icons in the Botanic Gardens since 1995 when the Chris Dance Conservation and Management Plan was accepted as part of the GBG Master Plan.



August 31st was a double celebration as we also acknowledged the appointment of the Garden's first curator Daniel Bunce who was appointed in 1857. Local actor Colin Mockett played the part of Daniel Bunce and opened a garden bed displaying plants he used during his time at the GBG.

To commemorate Daniel Bunce's contribution to horticulture and the GBG the Friends have published a facsimile copy of his Manual of Practical Gardening adapted to the Climate of van Dieman's Land first published in 1838. Copies of the book are "*Daniel Bunce, Jayne Salmon, Councillor Abley*" available from the Friends for \$27.95. A new Strategic Plan to guide development of Eastern Park and the Geelong Botanic Gardens is about to go on public display, our director Annette Zealley has been part of a working group to guide the Consultants in the drafting of the document and I have been a member of the Project Control Group.

Friends will participate in the Geelong Waterwise Expo to be hosted by Barwon Water in early November. Our spring plant sale will be held in conjunction with the Expo.

Promotion for our February Twilight Music Program and the Botanical Artists Exhibition to be held on 16th and 17th February is under way. We look forward to meeting Friends from other Gardens at the Conference at Orange in April.

Jayne Salmon,
President

FRIENDS OF BENALLA BOTANICAL GARDENS & RIVERINE PARKLAND

North Eastern Victoria

The Friends continues to provide a dedicated group of volunteers to prune the roses over their flowering period to help keep them looking their best. While not everyone in the community was enthusiastic about the new Rose Garden when it was first constructed this is steadily changing as it matures. Last season the Rose Garden and surrounds looked wonderful and the feedback from locals and visitors is increasingly very positive.

The Friends group is presently working with a designer on developing interpretive and directional signage for the Gardens and area around Lake Benalla. Our first priority is to provide an interpretive sign for the Rose Garden, for which funding is available.

Further planting has been done in two major perennial beds which are part of our project to integrate the modern Rose Garden with the surrounding heritage landscape. These beds, designed by Andrew Laidlaw from the Royal Botanic Gardens, have made a great addition to the area and promise to look wonderful this summer.

Mediterranean Beds

At regular working bees the Friends has continued to help maintain the Mediterranean beds behind the grandstand which we have planted over the last four years, dividing plants and cutting back as needed. The Mediterranean beds are a great demonstration of drought-tolerant plants that do well in this area.

Seats donated to the Gardens

Although the Gardens have improved so much in the last few years there has been a real shortage of places to sit and enjoy the surrounds. The Friends has worked with council on a seating plan and now promotes the idea of donating seats to the Gardens. Last Spring we liaised with donors to see 5 new seats placed in the Gardens – three donated by the Benalla Lakeside Craft Market and two by local families. We're very pleased that the Rotary Club of Benalla and the Benalla Garden Club have also each decided to donate a seat, which will be placed in the Gardens soon. The high quality seats have a small plaque recognising the donor and have proved a very positive way for the local community to contribute to the Gardens.

'A Day in the Gardens'

The community celebrated the 120th year of the Gardens last November with music, old-fashioned games, a teddy bears picnic, quality market and lots more. The Benalla & District Family History Group organised the event in partnership with the Benalla Lakeside Craft Market. The Friends exhibited some of the historic photos of the Gardens and prepared display boards about their early days. As some of the historic photos feature a very early hot air balloon we also arranged for some balloonists to be present on the day.

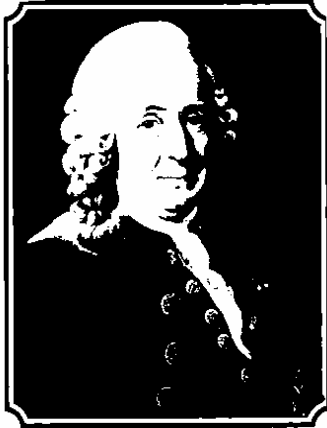
We're very pleased that the Family History Group are organising another Day in the Gardens this year on Remembrance Day, Sunday November 11.

Sally Gamble
President

FRIENDS OF AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Canberra ACT

This article has been included to highlight the celebrations being held worldwide for the Tercentary, -300 years since the birth of Carl Linne or Linnaeus, the Swedish doctor who developed the system of plant nomenclature.



LINNAEUS, THE MAN
1707 - 1778

In person, Linnæus was described as of medium build with large limbs, brown piercing eyes and acute vision. He was quick tempered and accustomed to sleep five hours in summer and ten hours in winter. He was what we would call in modern parlance a ‘workaholic’ and expected the same from those he worked with.

Arrangement seemed to have been a passion for Linnæus. He delighted in devising classifications; not only in systematically classifying the three kingdoms of nature but even drawing up a treatise on the *Genera Morborum*, a classification of medical diseases.

Linnaeus found biology a chaos, he left it a cosmos.

Linnæus came upon the scene at a time when new plants and animals were being increasingly discovered. New trade routes, new discoveries of land and new excursions contributed greatly to the number of biological objects for Linnæus to categorise.

In devising schemes of arrangement, the many acquisitions were provisionally sorted until their affinities could later be established. This process continues today as we discover more sophisticated techniques in classification.

Although Linnæus made many mistakes, honour is due to him for having first enunciated the true principles for defining genera and species. As well, the uniform use of ‘trivial names’ [in the biological sense meaning specific rather than generic] will last as long as the study of biology itself endures.

Linnæus used descriptions in a terse manner, omitting verbs. This was an innovation that, although foreign to writings of the time, was a succinctness that added to the popularity of his works.

Students, of whom there were many, were imbued with the character of Linnæus. The man’s enthusiasm, accurate observation and meticulous recording encouraged his students to go to all corners of the globe, gathering more and more information to be systematically recorded. Besides teaching, Linnæus produced over one hundred and eighty publications, most originals of which reside in the Banksian and Linnæan Society’s libraries.

Warwick Wright

FRIENDS OF ORANGE BOTANIC GARDENS

Central West, New South Wales

Orange received some reasonable autumn and early winter rains but August and September have been quite dry and we hope we are not going to have a repeat of last summer's drought.

Our Gardens are now more than twenty years old and some of the original indigenous plantings are in urgent need of renewal. There are many acacias, initially envisaged as nurse plantings, which have reached their use-by dates. The Wednesday Volunteers are commencing a programme to source and propagate seed of local species and replant these areas, concentrating on the under storey layer. There is also a plan to create a display garden of indigenous species to highlight the many ways in which these plants can be used effectively in the home garden.

Our annual lecture/luncheon, held on August 22nd at the Gardens, was a sell-out success. Our guest speaker was Dr Barbara Briggs, from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, who presented a fascinating illustrated talk 'Travelling the Silk Road'. Her botanist's eye found plenty of interest in this generally barren area, particularly in the markets and the beautiful tile work of the mosques. Our catering team produced an excellent lunch complemented by local wines.

The Friends are disturbed by Orange City Council's proposal for a shopping centre to serve the growing northern residential areas. One of the suggested sites is adjacent to the Gardens. We have naturally opposed this threat to the beauty and tranquillity of the Gardens and have supported ECCO (Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange) in urging the council to accept an alternative site which will have less impact. We are relieved that at the recent meeting of the Council's Sustainable Development Committee councillors voted against the controversial site and we sincerely hope that no inappropriate development will ever impinge on the Gardens.

The Friends have a busy programme for spring. As well as our regular guided walks on the first Sunday of every month, we have several tour groups scheduled to visit the Gardens. The Gardens will be the venue for the bi-annual In Site Out Exhibition, a display of temporary and ephemeral art with themes which reflect the Gardens and incorporate environmental elements or concerns. This three week event culminates in an artists market, coinciding with Orange City Council's Colour City Garden Weekend, 16th-18th November.

The Friends are preparing for the Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens to be held at the Orange Botanic Gardens from April 4-6th 2008. The title of the conference is 'Botanic gardens – where passion bears fruit' and will concentrate on the practical aspects of Friends activities. The programme includes lectures, workshops, guided walks of our Gardens, social events and a pre-conference tour. We hope to meet many of you here. The dates have been chosen so that visitors can enjoy the special beauty of the Central Tablelands in early autumn. For detail see www.friendsbotanicgardens.org or contact the conference organiser on (02) 6362 0039 email jarnott@netconnect.com.au.

Patricia Bannatyne
President

FRIENDS OF THE MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

North Coast, Queensland

This has been a period of consolidation in our Gardens, rather than the exciting developmental phases. The reconstruction of the main road adjacent to the Gardens has been completed. Visitors and locals alike are glad to be able to find their way into the car park again! Because of the disruptions caused by the road construction there have been fewer events in the Gardens this year. However a multi-cultural event Global Grooves in the Gardens attracted well over 2000 visitors recently. They enjoyed interesting music and workshops and food on a perfect sunny spring day.

Spring has definitely arrived here and the wet June followed by a dry July has produced some spectacular flowering in the shrubs and trees. This in turn has brought a wonderful influx of birds to the Gardens.

Friends held their first ever plant sale in June which proved to be a very popular event. Later this year a greenhouse should be erected to allow Friends to form a propagation group. A local Rotary Club is generously donating their labour to assist in erecting the structure which was also donated.



Weed Harvester at work

Recently a water weed harvester spent some time in the Lagoon to help eradicate the awful lettuce weed and water hyacinth. There is now a wonderful expanse of clear water on view, which the resident platypus must also appreciate. The operator was kind enough to leave a raft of weed around a moor hen's nest. Five chicks have hatched and when they fly away the gardeners will spray out the weed.

Two more gardening bees have been held where Friends assisted in placing more plants in Stage 2 garden beds. There is still much more work to do to fill all the beds, but the shrubs and trees which have been planted are growing well. We were unlucky enough to lose a few when there were unexpected frosts in July, however the overall effect is of lush growth. Unfortunately the weeds are growing just as fast.



Planting Wollemi pines

Guided walks for schools have continued throughout the year. Friends purchased an outdoor portable audio system which makes it considerable easier for the guides to be heard.

Our nine Wollemi pines have now been planted out in securely fenced areas and are looking good. Some are in the Coal Garden, which is benefiting from a Grant and partnership from Rio Tinto Hail Creek. This will go towards planting up the Coal Garden and an education programme for school students and visitors.

Robin McWhinney
Secretary

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE

Melbourne City, Victoria

The Friends received a magnificent surprise earlier this year when informed of a bequest from the estate of Helen McLellan. She had been a member, although not active, for 20 years. One immediate result has been the endowment of a \$10,000 annual scholarship to advance the professional skills of RBG staff. Eagerly-awaited details of the bequest, and the winner of the first staff award, will be announced at our annual meeting on 19 November.

In September, 30 'early birds' secured tickets to a privileged 'Members only' visit to Government House, while many more would-be attendees were disappointed. The Governor, Professor de Kretser, who is our Patron, and Mrs de Kretser entertained the Friends to morning tea and then joined a tour of the gardens. John Patrick drew attention to the precious heritage features, while describing planning for change that may be necessary to cope with climate change.

The Friends of the Sydney Gardens have initiated an Australian tour by David Howard, Head Gardener to HRH the Prince of Wales at his private residence, Highgrove. We are hosting three talks in Melbourne on 12 and 13 November, at which David will share his passion for organic and sustainable horticulture. Bookings are being handled by MCA Ticketing Agency (www.mca-tix.com). For phone bookings ring 1300 306 776.

The Canna bed on the Southern Lawn has been converted to a 'Rain garden' as the RBG's latest venture in wise water management. This relatively new technology diverts storm water run off from Birdwood Avenue into a large sand filtration system under the Cannas. With nutrients and sediments removed, the water flows to the Fern Gully and thence to the lakes. Melbourne Water has funded this Bio retention Basin, and is encouraging local councils to introduce this system for street planting.

All planting in the Gardens was completed early, by the end of September, to give maximum opportunity for establishment before summer sets in. The old bulb bed is being replaced by a Rare and Threatened Species Garden which will focus attention on indigenous plants from five regions of Victoria.

Six volunteers have initiated a Friends 'Helping Hands' project to maintain and improve the grounds of E Gate Lodge and later Eastern Lodge. Following extensive refurbishment, Eastern Lodge has taken on a new life to accommodate visitors from other botanic gardens, including trainees from South East Asia as part of the RBGM's capacity building commitment to botanic gardens of Asia.

The Tropical House has been revitalised, thanks to a grant from the Plant Craft Cottage and an individual donor. The rear half had been closed for 20 years; now there's a pool, seating, a flourishing array of new plants and a self-guided tour to add value to your visit.

Diary Dates: Touring exhibition from the State Botanical Collection 'Hidden in Plain View – the forgotten flora' at Domain House, 24 November – 17 December. Markets in the Gardens will resume on Saturday 10 November (9am-2pm) and continue monthly until 10 May.

For information about our beautiful Botanical Illustrators Christmas cards and Oaks calendar, phone the FRBG office on 9650 6398 or visit our new 'alias' address www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org

We were delighted to see a bus load from Benalla Garden Club at our Spring Plant Sale. (They also took guided tours of the Gardens.) Similar groups would always be most welcome. The sale produced an excellent net result of \$23,500.

A new term - CBD - was introduced at this sale, with the first release of premium wild-collected plants subject to the International Convention on Biodiversity. Of known provenance and collected in another country by the RBG or a kindred institution, benefits from the sale of such plants are to be shared equitably with the country of origin. Neither they nor their progeny may be commercialised.

Heather Ironmonger

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL TASMANIAN BOTANIC GARDENS.

Hobart, Tasmania

Friends would like to share our experiences with you!!

We have 220 members. Members have opportunities to work in groups which include Guiding, Growing Friends – plant propagation, work in the Herbarium and assisting with the international Seed Bank project (Seed Conservation) and Visitor Services Centre.

One of our major projects this year has been our financial commitment of \$10,000 and voluntary work contributing to the new historical display of stories, images and objects brought to light in the Friends Cottage. This means that our Cottage – our headquarters – is now open daily to the public during business hours. The Cottage was the home of the Head Gardeners and in the 60's served as the Gardens' Offices. Later, it was a tea room and was restored to its current status by a group of Friends who had secured a Commonwealth grant. Friends Cottage enables us to share our Garden's wonderful history with the many visitors from local places, interstate and overseas.

We have a very healthy and active partnership with the RTBG Director and staff. We assist the Garden's staff in many ways including acting as ticket collectors on the gates for our three annual festivals – the Kidsfest in April, the Midwinter Huskies Picnic in June and the October Spring Tulip Festival. These events are so much fun for children, their families and adults, with music, fine foods, stalls, activities and drama, all complementing the beautiful and colourful displays for visitors to enjoy. Our Conservatory is always an amazing picture with displays being changed every season.

We have contributed \$25,000 to a very special project, now in its second stage and one on which the staff are currently working. This is the Friends' Mixed Border consisting of many different types of flowers, including roses climbing over trellises, arches and obelisks should be a spectacular sight in the future.

Another is the preservation of the historical collection of books (some of which date back to the 1850's) photos, maps and posters depicting the history of our Gardens. This initial survey was funded late in 2006 by a Federal Government Cultural Heritage Grant to enable us to find out how to properly preserve our historical collections. We have regular Committee Meetings and this year for our General Meetings, we have embarked on a Guest Presenter Program on "What Our Gardens Staff Really Do". This has been an interesting and progressive insight. Two of our members are academics who have shared their perspectives on the history of "the changing backyard" and "why people plant what they do in their garden".

On a practical note, we conduct regular tours of our Gardens and have many tour companies interested in this aspect. We have Plant sales from the Growing Friends group – these recently raised \$5500- and we organise an annual calendar of events, which include meetings, guest speakers, short walks, day trips and visits to other places of botanical interest. Friends are very fortunate to have such wonderful, expertly cared for Gardens to share with people, their love of plants, flowers, botanical information and history.

In the Pinetum we have the largest collection of conifers in the Southern Hemisphere including our now un-caged Wollemi pine. Tragedy struck last year when one of our favourites – the Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) – had to be removed after being hit by lightning. However, ever resourceful and into recycling, a well known Tasmanian sculptor, Bernie Tarr, carved a statue of a 1900's garden worker from the remains of the tree and this now is the feature outside the Friends Cottage.

2008 will see the 190th Anniversary of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens. You can find out more and see photos on www.rtbg.tas.gov.au and follow the links to Friends.

Sally Dabner
President

STAMPS celebrate Australian Botanical Gardens

Coinciding with an increase in popularity for Australian botanic gardens, Australia Post has issued a new stamp release featuring botanic gardens from across the country. The Australian Botanic Gardens special issue features five of the major botanic gardens across the country - those of Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney.

The stamp release comes at a time when research shows nearly 40 per cent of Australians over the age of 15 visit a botanic garden at least once a year and that botanic gardens are the second most popular cultural venue after the cinema.

Australia Post Group Manager of Philatelic, Mr Noel Leahy, said Australia Post was keen to celebrate and promote the beauty and range of some of Australia's most popular botanic gardens. Internationally, Australia's gardens are recognised for their iconic and individual beauty, and we were keen to celebrate this.

First day cover, a stamp pack, a prestige booklet and a set of maxicards,. product is available from participating Australia Post outlets or via mail order on 1800 311 794 11

**ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF
BOTANIC GARDENS INC.**

President: Alex Smart
RBG Cranbourne

Vice-President: vacant

Secretary/Treasurer Annie McGeachy
Public Officer Annie McGeachy
Geelong

Committee:
RBG Melb. Janet Thomson
Ballarat Judith Bailey,
Canberra Warwick Wright
Warrnambool Amanda King
Shepparton Denise Underwood
Benalla Betty Lindsay
Orange Patricia Bannatyne

Website editor Judith Bailey
Newsletter Amanda King
Annie McGeachy

Postal Address:

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.
16 Pavo St Belmont VIC 3216

Email: anniemcg@sunet.com.au
Telephone: 03 5243 7728
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
weeks prior to publication.

Forward all *Campsis* material to:

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

Format & processing Amanda King.
Editor & Printing Annie McGeachy

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

Membership fees are \$25

Cheque or Money Order should be made
payable to:
Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc
The Secretary,
16 Pavo St. Belmont VIC 3216

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Association web site www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/
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.

November: 15th-16th

BGANZ (Vic) Regional Meeting at Colac.
E-mail: lorna.downie@rbg.vic.gov.au
ph 03 92522337

July to November 2007:

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens
150th Anniversary of Ballarat Botanical Gardens

2008

April: 4th-6th

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference
Orange Botanic Gardens, Orange NSW
Title: 'Where Passion Bares Fruit'
Theme: 'Practical aspects of Friends' activities'.
[Conference Booking Form \(Pdf 78kb\)](#)

September 6TH-9TH

BGANZ NSW Conference,
Eurobadalla Regional Botanic Gardens, Batemans Bay
Title: 'Accentuate the Positive'
www.esc.nsw.gov.au/comunity/gardens
Mailing list, E-mail: heatherh@melbpc.or.au

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand
BGANZ- www.bganz.org.au
Secretariat in Canberra.
E-mail Virginia.Berger@deh.gov.au.

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 statement or
opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish
reliable information.*

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Members Nov. 2007

A.C.T.

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc., GPO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT, 2601

New South Wales.

Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 1056, Albury, NSW 2641

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

Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens Inc. PO Box 17, Orange, NSW, 2800

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney Inc., Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens Inc, PO Box 1393, Tamworth,,NSW 2340

Friends of Wollongong Botanic Gardens Inc., 61 Northfields Ave Keiraville NSW 2500

Northern Territory

Friends of the Darwin Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 36435, Winnellie, NT, 0821

Queensland

Friends of the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 5653, Gold Coast Mail Centre, Qld, 9726

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Friends Association Inc, PO Box 6850, Mackay, Qld, 4741

Victoria

Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Garden Inc., PO Box 2809, Mildura, Vic, 3502

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc., PO Box 33W, Ballarat West, Vic, 3350

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens & Riverine Parkland Inc., PO Box 589, Benalla, Vic, 3672

Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 117, Strathdale, Vic, 3550

Friends of Burnley Gardens Inc., C/o Burnley College, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond, Vic, 3121

Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Inc., PO Box 391, Castlemaine, Vic, 3450

Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens, 18 Fulton St, Colac Vic, 3250

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 235, Geelong, Vic, 3220

Friends of George Pentland Botanic Gardens, Mark Brown, C/o 18 Waliki Crt. Lara, Vic. 3212

Friends of George Tindale Memorial Gardens Inc, 3 Brice Grove, Knoxfield Vic 3180

Friends of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 564, Gisborne, Vic, 3437

Friends of the Grounds The University of Melbourne, C/o P&CS Maintenance Section, 625-631 Swanston St., Melbourne 3010 .Att: R Phillips.

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 43, Hamilton, Vic, 3300

Friends of Karwarra Australian Plant Garden Inc., Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama Vic 3766

Friends of Kyneton Gardens Inc, PO Box 1061 Kyneton, VIC 3444

Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens Inc., C/o PO Box 2381, Melton South, Vic, 3338

Friends of the Port Fairy Botanical Gardens, 115 Regent St, Port Fairy, Vic, 3284

Friends of the Portland Botanic Gardens, PO Box 1022, Portland, Vic, 3305

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne Inc., 241 Station St.,Fairfield, Vic. 3078

Friends of the RBG, Melbourne Inc., Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne, Vic. 3004

Greater Shepparton Gardens Association Inc., 41 Colliver Rd. Shepparton, Vic, 3630

Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens Inc. RMB233, St Arnaud, Vic, 3478

Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens, PO Box 1089, Elwood, Vic, 3184

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 1190, Warrnambool, Vic, 3280

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc., PO Box 412, Berwick, Vic, 3806

Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Inc, PO Box 267, Daylesford, Vic 3460

South Australia

Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Inc., PO Box 2040, Port Augusta, SA, 5700

Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Inc. Botanic Gardens, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Arboretum Inc., PO Box 370, Devonport, Tas, 7310

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Inc., C/o RTBG, Queens Domain, Hobart, Tas, 7000

Western Australia

Friends of Kings Park Inc, Volunteer Lodge, Fraser Ave., Kings Park & Botanic Gardens, West Perth, W.A.

NEW MEMBERS

Friends of Malmsbury Botanic Gardens & Environs Inc, PO Box 116, Malmsbury Vic. 3446

Moama&Echuca Community Gardens PO Box 545 Moama, NSW 2731

Friends of Sale Botanical Gardens. PO Box 506, Sale, 3850