



Campsis

NEWSLETTER

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Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

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AFBG CONFERENCE- Orange NSW April 4th -6th

Botanic Gardens: Where Passion Bears Fruit, A few highlights

Congratulations to the President, Committee and Friends of Orange Botanic Gardens for the very successful AFBG conference. Delegates came from 17 Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, included the welcome appearance of new faces from a number of NSW Botanic Gardens- that may well 'bear fruit' in 2 or3 new memberships of the AFBG.

A superb pre conference tour visited the beautiful and fascinating historic town of Carcoar- and morning tea, followed by a visit to the restored Athol Gardens near Blayney- and an excellent lunch and finally a trip to a Truffle Farm- before returning to Orange to enjoy a welcome reception at the Art Gallery.



Enjoying lunch at Athol Gardens

Keynote Address: *The Value of Volunteers*

Steve Corbett, Director & Chief Executive, Centennial Parklands Moore Park NSW.

Steve delivered an exceptional paper and prepared us by citing Churchill;
“*We make a living by what we do, we make a life by what we give*” and later, Ghandi;
“*The best way to find yourself is to loose yourself in the service of others*”

Steve acknowledged that Volunteers in the work place can be rewarding and challenging for organisations, balancing the needs of staff and volunteers. While some have a strong following of volunteers and commitment of staff others struggle.

Volunteering is a significant international activity and Australia has a high level of volunteering with 700,000 nationally and of those Botanic Gardens have the least number of volunteers.

Steve quoted some interesting figures from a New South Wales survey that identified percentages of volunteers, who do not have clear job descriptions, do not have proper

training, cannot claim reimbursement, are not involved in decision making or do not receive the information they need to perform properly.

Volunteers enrich the communities they serve particularly in regional areas and the NSW government has acknowledged this by appointing a Minister for Volunteerism with a target of increasing volunteer numbers by 10% by 2016.

Steve stated that Volunteers should be treated as employees, enjoy mutual respect and have clear lines of communication. It is important to align volunteering with goals, establish policy and management guidelines, an annual activity plan and involve volunteers in organisational planning structure- as part of the business plan. An organisation needs to actively manage volunteers, provide feed back and recognise and report on achievement.

‘Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless’.

The Contemporary Role of Botanic Gardens

Janelle Hatherly, Manager, Public Programs, Botanic Gardens Trust, Sydney.

Botanic Gardens reflect what the community values which have changed over the centuries from the time of the ‘physic garden’ in the 1600s in Europe to today and the era of ecological gardens.

The challenge for today’s gardens is to remain relevant, in a society in the middle of a technological revolution, with a world population that is predominantly urbanised and becoming disconnected from nature.

Janelle described the varying relationships humans have with nature. The ‘love and dependency’ of the wilderness dweller, the ‘tamed nature’ of very tidy backyards, the ‘nature haters and nature neutrals’ and most concerning those with ‘plant blindness’ – the inability to notice or recognise the importance of plants and the condition known as ‘Nature Deficit Disorder’- a loss of curiosity or caring.

Janelle emphasised the importance of nurturing the next generation of botanic stewards and making a meaning full connection with today’s children who live in a technological world. We may have to create programs that invite their curiosity and reach them through their technology, where they read and research, share information and talk with their networks of friends and contacts. Quite a challenge!

Regulatory Matters

Tony Smith- Author: Bush Lawyer Handbook, Orange

Incorporated Associations were designed for community groups, which want the protection of incorporation, because some of their activities carry some risk. They want to keep the cost to a minimum, with minimum government involvement and they do not want to form a company.

Each State has an Associations Incorporation Act which has minor differences and updated from time to time. NSW is currently making changes to simplify some requirements of the Act which will probably flow to other states.

If the Association becomes an incorporated body; it has the right to hold and dispose of property, members can come and go without affecting the association and members are

not liable for the debts of the Association, nor of the costs of winding it up. Do you still need insurance? YES.

Tony emphasised the importance of groups becoming incorporated associations for the benefits it provides. He also stated and that members should read, understand-and comply with the rules.

Appoint Officers, have an Agenda- and stick to it, keep accurate minutes of all meetings. Keep proper accounts -which only need auditing for amounts over \$200,000 and forward annual financial statements to the appropriate incorporation body.



See the AFBG Information Kit for the appropriate department in your state. .

'Gardens Versus development' workshop in progress

Workshops

Workshop subjects were Children Activities, Conservation- a community work, Event Management and Gardens Versus development, allowing plenty of opportunity for spirited discussion.

How we did it' 15 minute presentations from four gardens.

AIBG. Mildura, North Coast Regional Gardens Port Macquarie and Burrendong Botanic Garden and Arboretum represented quite different habitats and gardens styles but a common denominator in their management, quite different from the standard council structure and paid staff seen in Victoria...

In these gardens, some were of community origin, or privately owned origin, some had boards of management of volunteers and the majority of daily management and horticultural labour at each garden was carried out by volunteers, as is also the case with the 46 hectare Eurobadalla Botanic Gardens, Bateman's Bay

On the lighter side, -we enjoyed an early morning bird ramble in Orange Botanic Gardens with Orange Fields Naturalists, Bernie and Colina Huxtable. . The morning sunshine revealed the delightful undulating landscape of exotics, original Eucalypts stands, waterways, lakes and interesting structures -and varying success with bird siting.

An excellent conference dinner was enjoyed at the Park View Hotel where we were entertained with much hilarity by our after dinner speaker, the feisty gardener, television presenter and author Mary Moody.

Thank you to the Friends of Orange Botanic Gardens.

Transcripts will be available on the AFBG website: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org.au

Annie McGeachy

NB Early warning

The 2010 AFBG Conference will be held by Friends of Australian Inland Botanic Garden, Mildura probably in autumn- date TBA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends Need Friends

Recently I had the wonderful experience of observing two Friends Groups, both members of AFBG, working together.

The Friends of the Botanic Garden at Hall's Gap, in the heart of the Grampians, Victoria, have recently undertaken to reinvigorate a garden to a display range of Grampians plants near the Hall's Gap township.

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne were camping in the Grampians over a long weekend.

Following a tip from AFBG secretary, Annie McGeachy, that the Hall's Gap group could do with some help a working bee involving both groups was arranged.



Hall's Gap and Cranbourne Friends working bee

So on a warm Sunday morning 25 Friends from RBG Cranbourne met with 12 Friends from Hall's Gap. Margo Sietsma, President FHGBG, provided an outline of their objectives and action groups were formed.

A plant identification group worked on cataloguing the existing plants, a design group studied the landscape and suggested directions for the future, some people began a task familiar to all gardeners, i.e. weeding and others worked on relocating logs from a stock pile. Much work was done in just 1.5 hours.

FHGBG appreciated the help and FRBGC enjoyed meeting and working with a small enthusiastic group. It certainly was a happy morning in the Grampians. There maybe other opportunities for established members of AFBG to help small or emerging members groups

Alex Smart

FROM THE SECRETARY

It is very pleasing to note that the Membership of the Association (AFBG) has increased by ten in the last 18 months, to 47 the target of 50 members, set a little over 2 years ago now seeming achievable.

Our most recent members reflect the varying styles of Botanic Gardens, but the same passion from their supporting Friends.

The Friends of Maroochy Bushland Gardens in Buderim Queensland and a revived Grampians Flora Botanic Gardens group who are endeavouring to reinvigorate the Halls Gap garden established in 1996. We are delighted to have members in all states and now, our first from across the Tasman, with Friends Hamilton Botanic Gardens. We welcome them to the network.

The President Alex Smart and I had the pleasure of visiting an energetic community group in Victor Harbour, South Australia, who are endeavouring to put together a proposal for a Botanic Garden to be developed, having gathered considerable community support for the concept. We also visited the rather interesting site they are proposing for the garden. We wish them well.

The proposal for the combining of the Association and Guides Conferences (*Campsis* Oct 07) was further discussed with major guide groups and circulated to all AFBG/Guide members for consideration and opinion. At the February meeting of the AFBG Committee it was decided to continue with existing AFBG Conference arrangements.

For interesting and informative gardens articles and papers see the ANBG Canberra website. www.anbg.gov.au

The Association continues to encourage members to participate in the BGANZ Vic & BGANZ NSW Regional meetings which seem to be very well supported and productive. The November BGANZ Vic day at Colac was excellent

Janet Thomson, Alex Smart and I attended the very successful AFBG Conference where the camaraderie was clearly enjoyed by all delegates.

Orange is indeed worthy of the name 'colour city', with the masses of trees flaunting their stunning autumnal colours in sharp clear sunshine.

Campsis articles make marvellous reading and confirm that the resilience of committed Friends of many Regional Botanic Gardens has contributed to changing local municipal and community attitudes towards these valued assets- benefiting the community at large.

However not for all-unfortunately. If you are lacking in commitment lately, read the article from Shepparton Friends, whom I have followed for some time. Their years of, unyielding commitment, determination, courage, tenacity and extraordinary efforts in the face of appalling short sighted attitudes are not easily described.

Tom Alford AM

We extend congratulations to Mr Tom Alford AM., President of the Friends of Kings Park & Botanic Gardens, Perth, WA., who was awarded the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Awards 2008 for his services to horticulture, particularly plant conservation, through support of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens Community.

AnnieMcGeachy

AFBG 16th Annual General Meeting

President's Annual Report

In the AFBG Statement of Purposes the very first item is "to encourage and support the growth of societies or associations interested in the conservation, development, well being and public appreciation of Botanic Gardens".

We adopted a broad and inclusive definition from Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) i.e. "'Botanic Garden' means gardens open to the public which grow plants for public enjoyment, scientific, conservation, or educational purposes and have local, national or international roles".

During the past year your committee has placed an emphasis on encouraging regional members and emerging groups. Particular thanks are due to committee members who have travelled long distances, at their own expense, to attend meetings.

New members in the last 12 months include Friends from Moama/Echuca Community Garden group, Malmsbury Botanic Gardens, Sale Gardens and Grampians Flora Botanic Gardens Group, (Victoria), Maroochy Regional Bushland Gardens (NSW) and Hamilton Botanic Gardens (NZ)

The proposal put forward to reduce the number of volunteer conferences and costs to Friends/Guides by combining the conferences to form one conference in alternate years has not been successful.

The newsletter, Campsis, continues to be our main means of communication with members. Reports from members enable us to learn about Friends activities over much of Australia. Thanks to our editor, Annie McGeachy (F Geelong BG) for the time and skill she provides and to Amanda King (F Warrnambool BG) who assists with formatting the production.

Annie McGeachy has done a sterling job as secretary. AFBG paid registration fees to enable Annie to be our delegate at a BGANZ Conference at Hamilton NZ. Friends of Hamilton Botanic Garden generously provided a billet.

Sincere thanks to the Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens for hosting our 2008 Conference.

Alex Smart, President.

The Annual General meeting was held at the AFBG Conference in Orange on April 6th. We thank retiring member Denise Underwood (Shepparton) for past support.

The following Friends/members representatives were elected to the Association Committee for 2008:

Officers: President, Alex Smart (RBG Cranbourne Vic), Vice President, Patricia Bannatyne, (Orange NSW), Secretary/Treasurer, Annie McGeachy (Geelong Vic).

Ordinary Members: Janet Thomson, (RBG Melbourne Vic), Judith Bailey (Ballarat Vic), Amanda King (Warrnambool Vic), Betty Lindsay (Benalla Vic), Warwick Wright ANBG (Canberra ACT), **New members;** Caro Webster (RBG Sydney NSW), Ken Mansell (AIBG Mildura Vic)



You're Association Committee at work!

At the later Committee meeting held in Cook Park, Orange the geographical logistics and costs of direct communication/meetings for the AFBG Committee was again raised-given this a national committee of an expanding organisation. The concept and relative costs of teleconferencing is being investigated.

A review of some items in the Association Information Kit is underway and the updated pages will be emailed or posted to members in due course

*Annie McGeachy
Secretary*

FRIENDS OF ALBURY BOTANIC GARDENS

Murray Region New South Wales.

Another lively year for our Friends with excellent results in fund raising, mostly from catering functions in the gardens which is not only a great way of raising funds but an excellent way of meeting all sorts of people involved in a wide range of activities and interests.

Our growing group, in spite of the very dry conditions, have held two plant sales with the next planned for April 13th and have cleared an amazing amount of stock. In February we were approached by one of our local, "work for the disabled", groups to see if we could include a group of six helpers. It was decided at the AGM in March to trial this idea and we have had the pleasure of working with the disabled group and their supervisors on two occasions. We are already of the opinion that this arrangement will work. Our growers output has grown and the Membership has grown by eight new and enthusiastic members and it has turned out to be quite a chatty couple of hours.

The new Office has been a busy place since opening fifteen months ago. Our telephone number is [02] 6051 3443, Email: fotg@alburycity.nsw.gov.au and for the postal address is GPO BOX 1056 Albury, 2640. At present the office is only attended Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am Midday and is proving a handy catch-up spot.

Plans for our new Childrens' Garden project has been passed by Albury Council and we are currently awaiting approval of funding methods, while our fund raising sub-committee is champing at the bit.

The location for the garden has been selected to replace the old Bowling green lawns, in the south west corner of the gardens and includes the Fern walk. Several large tree stumps have already been acquired for the project and we shudder to think how much it will cost us to have them carved into "Story telling" seats. Having now been on the go for two years the ten thousand dollars set aside for the purpose has grown considerably, so we live in hope.

Jeff Gates ,Secretary

AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN

Port Augusta South Australia

The 'Propagating' Friends have been very busy growing a large and diverse range of arid plant species including *eremophila*, *acacia*, *dodonea*, *callistemon* and *eucalypt* etc. ready for 3 country fairs in April and May. These are excellent fund raisers each year, especially as people are much more aware now of the advantages of growing native plants and particularly those from arid areas (even more so after the hottest and driest summer I have known). Between 10 and 15 friends work very hard every Wednesday growing and selling plants at the AALBG and trying to keep up with an ever increasing number of orders and enquiries.

Over the last 12 months we have been able to put some of the money raised back into the garden. We were very pleased to be able to buy 2 "Gators" last year. With the many kms. of paths over the 250h of gardens, the small work vehicles are used constantly by the

garden staff (and occasionally by the Friends). We have also supported both financially and physically the development of a series of 6 Waterwise gardens that have been developed for the AALBG. They have been labelled Arid Smart and will demonstrate the fantastic landscapes that are possible using arid plants.

Tours of the AALBG are every weekday at 10am (weather permitting) and these are now being redesigned as the garden has expanded and changed over 12 years since they began. More tour guides are needed as visitors are increasing every year and we are not getting any younger. Portable sound systems have been acquired as part of a grant and they have proved very handy when guiding a large group of people around garden.

Our Curator Michael Anlezark has been heavily involved in some major master planning that will influence the direction of the garden over the next 5-10 years. This will include a new nursery, works depot and Friends facility, new walks and regional displays and the redevelopment of some existing areas. Michael is also about to start working on replacing the entire irrigation system with a more sophisticated and efficient sub surface system.

The Friends and garden staff continue to work with the ever increasing challenges of gardening in a changing climate.

Chris Nayda

FRIENDS OF BENDIGO BOTANIC GARDENS

Central Victoria

The White Hills Botanic Gardens, Bendigo celebrated its 150th birthday in 2007. The Friends and the City Parks staff saw this milestone as an opportunity to make the community aware of the important value the gardens have for the city. The most visible changes this anniversary brought about were the official opening and naming of the Samuel Gadd Centre in March 2007 and the installation of interpretative signage throughout the Gardens.

The Samuel Gadd Centre was once the caretaker's residence. In 2006 it was extensively altered to create a small meeting room and offices. From the moment we all started using the building it was obvious that its central location will have for the future restoration of the gardens. A name for the building was quickly agreed upon by the City of Bendigo staff, Councillors and Friends. It could only be the Samuel Gadd Centre in recognition of Gadd's important contribution to the public gardens landscape of the city.

Samuel Gadd was the City of Bendigo Curator of Gardens more than 20 years in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was responsible for the design of the White Hills Botanic Gardens and the Rosalind Park Gardens complex including the Fernery and supervised their construction and early development. Sadly, his design for the Botanic Gardens has been largely lost but the pathways and Elm and Pine avenues at Rosalind Park are still as he designed them. The Rosalind Park Fernery is the best example of his work still to be seen, as the plan has been hardly altered. Alas his name had been largely forgotten today and by naming the centre in his honour is a tribute to his important work.

Samuel Gadd must have experienced problems with having enough water to maintain plants through the summer months. We don't know how he managed this problem, but he would have appreciated our current water restrictions. He may have used recycled water but it would not have had the 'hi-tech' filtration treatment that the recycled water to be used in the White Hills Botanic Gardens has been put through. Only a small section of the Gardens is fully reticulated for now, the rest of the gardens is still reliant on watering from tankers and of course, rainfall!

A less visible but most far reaching event occurred in 2007, when the City of Greater Bendigo formally accepted the White Hills Botanic Gardens Heritage Significance Assessment and Strategy Report (the Lee Andrews White Hills Botanic Gardens report). The time since then, has been taken up with carefully reading the report and working out how to best to go about implementing its recommendations. The good news is that we have commenced the long process of writing a master plan for the White Hills Botanic Gardens with the view to its completion in 2009.

A member of the Friends, Judy Milner, and Anthony Sheean, a City of Greater Bendigo staff officer successfully applied for a Heritage Victoria grant to produce a booklet about the White Hills Botanic Gardens. It will present an outline of the history of the Gardens and its significance to the community. This grant also includes funding for a White Hills Botanic Gardens pamphlet and guide, which is being written.

The City of Greater Bendigo also commissioned Lee Andrews to research and write a Heritage Assessment of the Lake Weeroona Parkland Reserve (now completed) and also for the Canterbury Gardens at Eaglehawk. The Friends, through their representation on the Parks Advisory Committee have had a close association with these far-reaching decisions and while progress has, many times, appeared frustratingly slow we have come to appreciate that these gradual changes may be the most enduring.

Jan Orr
Secretary

CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL ARBORETUM AND GARDENS

Green Hills Forest area ACT

A Brilliant New Garden Emerges

The fires which devastated large parts of the ACT in 2003 destroyed most of the pine plantations on hills at the western end of Lake Burley Griffin in an area approximately where Burley Griffin, in about 1910, had suggested as the site for an international arboretum. Some early European plantings survived in the area, notably Cork Oaks, *Quercus suber* which had been planted in 1912 and Himalayan Cedars *Cedrus deodora* planted around 1928.

In 2004 a proposal was developed to consider an International Arboretum of 200 ha which could be regarded as a present day re-interpretation of the Burley Griffin vision. The challenge was to provide an interesting and attractive landscape to be enjoyed by the general public and be used by research and teaching institutions. Rather than be just

another collection of woody plants the arboretum was to exploit the topography of linked gullies and slopes most of which have sensational views over Lake Burley Griffin.

In May 2004 an International competition was launched and an astonishing 45 entries were received. In May 2005 Chief Minister Jon Stanhope MLA announced that Taylor Cullity Lethlean, Landscape Architects, in conjunction with Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects were the winners with their **100 Forests, 100 Gardens** concept. The concept involves planting large blocks of rare, threatened or endangered trees from all over the world. Several thousand trees have already been planted including, from Australia, the Wollemi Pine *Wollemia nobilis* and the Camden Gum *Eucalyptus benthamii*, the *Quercus engelmannii* (Mesa Oak) and the *Quercus macrocarpa* (Burr Oak) both from north America.

In the future, a Visitor Centre is to be built and a performance area will be constructed in



what is an amphitheatre created as part of an Event Terrace - the only flat area on the site. A Friends Group has evolved in parallel with the development of the CIAG and I was invited to speak at their inaugural Annual General Meeting on 25th March 2008 with approximately 40 people attending. Already they are planning guided tours of the site during weekends of Floriade 2008 from 13th September to 12th October.

Aerial shot of the arboretum site, with Dairy Farmers Hill in the foreground, Telstra Tower on Black Mountain in the background, and Lake Burley Griffin to the right.

The progress since the 2003 fires is much faster than the usual gestation time for a Botanic Garden. The vision is enormous while most of the trees are small. It is worth remembering that every great garden in the world was young once. The Canberra International Arboretum and Garden is bound to become one of our great gardens.

We look forward to FCIAG joining AFBG and sharing their ongoing experiences. Much more information is available if you put “Canberra International Arboretum and Garden” into a search engine.

Alex Smart, President, AFBG.

FRIENDS OF THE GOLD COAST REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS South Coast Queensland

What a start to the year! Total rainfall in our Botanic Gardens for January and February this year has been measured at 570mm, with 48 days of rainfall from 1 January. With our city's dam overflowing, water restrictions were removed for the first time in about 5 years – we were on Level 6 till Christmas! The weather has presented maintenance challenges for the horticultural crew and the volunteer Friends at Maintenance Mornings, but the Gardens are in great shape. Some of the low water use plants installed in the bedding displays in our dry period have not performed well during the Wet and replacements are going in this autumn.

Our wonderful Mangroves to Mountains plantings of local native species coordinated and planted by the Friends over the past five years will become more accessible after construction of around 250 metres of new pathways and bridges is completed by April.

In July, the Friends will celebrate our 10th anniversary with a Gala Dinner – a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our achievements to date and draw breath to drive forward all that we want to see our Botanic Gardens become. At the same time the Friends will assist Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens to host the Network of Regional Botanic Gardens (Tropical & Sub-Tropical) Conference over three days from 16 July. This is a great opportunity to share in a think tank of Botanic Gardens managers, curators and supporters.

We look forward to seeing our Friends colleagues at the conference in Orange – you are all welcome to come and visit our growing Botanic Gardens!

Mary Woods
Secretary

GRAMPIANS FLORA BOTANIC GARDENS GROUP

Halls Gap, Grampians Shire, Victoria

Our group has just joined the Association and I would like to introduce ourselves. Halls Gap is a typical tourist town - lots of houses but few full time residents. Our garden is approximately two hectares and is run almost completely by volunteers at the moment, with hopes of some paid maintenance work in the future. The Garden borders the Grampians National Park at the edge of the township.

Purpose of the Garden.

1. To provide in a single area as wide a sample as possible of the indigenous Grampians flora.
2. To make this area easily accessible to all, so that those with physical disabilities or with limited time available can see a good representation of native flora.
3. To provide a resource that is both educational and an attraction to tourists, thereby enhancing the appeal of Halls Gap.
4. To provide an attractive entrance to the National Park by enhancing the natural beauty of the land and making it a suitable place for quiet contemplation.
5. To complement the annual Grampians Wildflower Show (71 years old this year!), not only through being a conveniently situated natural display but also by providing specimens for the Show, thereby minimising the amount of material that needs to be obtained under licence from the National Park.

Brief History

Prior to the Garden's establishment, the land had no specific use and was a degraded area of manna gum and swamp gum forest with middle storey scrub, some shrubs, ferns and rushes, but a preponderance of bracken, exotic weeds and plants from early settlement.

In 1996 a Federal Government grant of \$26,000 was obtained under the Forest Ecotourism Program for replanting with indigenous plants, for constructing about 1 km. of walking tracks, together with a footbridge across Stony Creek, a wetland boardwalk and an information shelter, and for interpretive signage and plant labelling. The project started with enthusiasm and many new plants were established.

However, after a couple of years problems emerged. Key volunteers left the district; some of the plantings were found to have been wrongly placed; a few were found to be hybrids, not genuine Grampians flora; the drought commenced in 1997 and continues to this day, bringing severe water restrictions and hungry grazing animals. Then, came the disastrous Mt Lubra fire of 2006 which burnt half our National Park. The gardens were only scorched not burnt, but the community became absorbed in other more pressing issues with some committee members losing their own gardens and all of us busy with other recovery projects. In mid 2007 we decided that either the garden had to be abandoned or we needed to make a major effort to get it sustainable

The Managing Committee

The Committee sits under the umbrella of the Community Association who initiated the project back in 1996. It comprises representatives from the Community Association of Halls Gap (CAHG), Parks Victoria (PV) and the Australian Plant Society B Grampians Group (APS), plus individuals with botanical expertise or enthusiasm to improve the Garden. We have achieved a lot in the last few months. A team of prisoners from the local prison spent two full days digging out *Watsonia* bulbs, dangerous trees have been trimmed, faded and obsolete signs removed and a new map produced.

We joined this association and were immediately rewarded by Friends of Cranbourne Botanic Gardens offering their help, both physical and with their specialised knowledge. We had a wonderful morning with them.

Looking forward

We see a perimeter fence as a high priority. This will stop animals eating our plants and from choosing them as sparring partners or soft beds. The low wire fences round individual beds or plants have not been a success. Perimeter fencing will also be more aesthetic and easier to maintain.

The Community Association has raised the funds for the materials, and a team from a local employment agency is keen to help with erecting the fence. We are applying for a grant to have an attractive entrance gate at each end of the gardens and to improve the interpretative signage. The local indigenous folk at Brambuk have offered their help and expertise to supplement the botanical information. Local artists are contemplating possibilities for art works in the gardens.

We have initiated an Adopt - a - Plot scheme and have been greatly encouraged with the way that is being taken up. The APS group are helping with advice on what to plant where and teaching us to propagate, so we can increase both the varieties and the numbers of Grampians Flora. We have also been promised a good number of shrubs and trees from the compensation scheme for the trees removed during the construction of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline. All we need now is some rain to allow us to plant.

It is a daunting task and we have to be careful not to let ambition blind us to our limited resources. It will remain a simple, natural garden - but, we hope, a delightful one.

Margo Sietsma, President

FRIENDS OF HAMILTON GARDENS NEW ZEALAND

Waikato Region North Island

Within the last 50 years the Gardens site has had many incarnations from the City rubbish dump to sand pit, rifle range, go-kart track, dog dosing strip, before becoming the tranquil place of peace and beauty that it is today. Originally intended as a conventional Botanical Garden with the opening of the first display glasshouse in 1959, the slowly developing project received a major boost in 1971, when chosen as the venue for the first ever World Rose Convention which saw the development of the beautiful Rogers Rose Garden.

In the early 1980's Peter Sergel, the present Director of the Gardens, produced a Hamilton Gardens Management Plan which, approved by the City Council, broke with tradition and set out to tell the story of gardening. A concept which has proved to be a touch of genius.

We now have the following well established gardens: the Chinese Scholars Garden, the Japanese Garden of Contemplation, the English Flower Garden, the American Modernist



Garden, the Italian Renaissance Garden and the Indian Char Bagh Garden, all within the Paradise Collection. Added to this are the Productive Gardens of herbs, fruit and vegetables and the Maori Garden of food and medicinal plants, a Perfume Garden and Chinoisere, a Time Garden, the Victorian Glasshouses and gardens and still to come are the Fantasy Gardens. Here at the Hamilton Gardens you can enjoy the whole world within the approximately 58 hectare site.

The Maori food gardens.

The Hamilton Hall Trust was set up in 1985 and subsequently from this the "Friends of Hamilton Gardens" evolved. We now have over 450 members and have recently been very much involved in establishing a new Information Centre and Souvenir shop. The "Friends" staff this Information Centre every day of the year except for Christmas Day and Good Friday. We also provide a flourishing Tour Guide service. A group of "Friends" known as the "Dead Heads" assist with dead heading roses and camellias, and another group known as the "RUFS" (Rare and Unusual Friends) propagate and grow plants for sale at the Information Centre and on Festival days.

When visiting the Gardens one needs be sure to see the magnificent Gardens Mural carved from a Camphor tree, by Megan Godfrey and Derek Kerwood. At the eastern entrance to the Gardens is the wonderful "Earth Blanket" sculpture NGA URI O HINETUPARIMAUNGA by Chris Booth and Digeress Te Kanawa.

Members of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens are especially welcome at the Hamilton Gardens.

Elizabeth Dunn (telephone +64 (4) 854 3474)

Secretary:

MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS FRIENDS

Central Coast, Queensland



Mackay Gardens in flood



The usual peaceful lagoon

What else could I start with other than The Flood! Mackay received over 600 mm rain in less than 24 hours with devastating results. The picture on the left was taken about an hour after the water had started to recede and the other is a very recent photo showing a much more peaceful lagoon. There was some major damage to many of the pathways and quite a few trees have died because they did not like wet feet. On the other hand the Gardens are looking particularly lush and lovely after a very good wet season.

Last year finished in spectacular style with Carols in the Gardens. Friends and staff and the entertainers were all run off their feet as well over 1000 adults and children arrived for a wonderful evening of singing under the stars. This event has doubled in size each year for the three years it has been held, but we could not possibly cater for a doubling in size this year, there is no more space!

Five Friends and the Acting Curator attended the Walking Guides Conference in Adelaide last September and came back completely inspired. We are so far away from the old established Gardens and rarely have the opportunity for so much interaction and communication. We were all interested to see some of the same plants growing in the Adelaide Botanic Gardens which we have growing in our Gardens, often with quite different characteristics. However some waterwise plants we saw in Adelaide that we were inspired to try – like Pride of Madeira – *Echium candicans*, died a most horrible death quickly in our autumn humidity.

Our Curator since the opening of the Gardens, Helen Paulsen, has accepted the new role of Manager – Parks & Environment in the new Mackay Regional Council. We wish her well in her new position. Dale Arvidsson is continuing as Acting Curator until the position is advertised in another month or so.

The Friends now have a full calendar of events for 2008 planned. Informative educational walks in the Gardens with local flora experts, planting bees in the Garden's Gymnosperm, Australian Regional Flora, Heritage and Coal Garden collections. Fun botanic walks and get-togethers visiting Mackay natural environments – such as the stunning Finch Hatton Gorge section of Eungella National Park and our coastal environs (Mackay features over 150 km of mainly undeveloped beachfront) and more – all to discover and grow many of our local native plants in amenity horticulture and preserve threatened plant species.

Other Friends activities including the Botanical Art Interest Group also continue to grow. Recently, the group was given lessons in plant identification with Gardens Friend and

local expert Irene Champion. Last year, Irene had a new species of local rare flora named after her – *Actephila championiae* – only discovered to date in one locality south of Mackay.

With the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens fifth birthday approaching in May this year, it's amazing to see how far the Gardens – and the Friends – have come in such a short period.

Robin McWhinney
Secretary

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE **Melbourne City, Victoria**

The estimated value of the Helen McLellan surprise bequest to the Friends Trust Fund, mentioned in our last Campsis report, was revealed as \$2.575 million in cash and shares. Consultations with Dr Philip Moors will determine how income from the bequest may benefit the Gardens in the long term. Part of the income will be used to support the Friends' new annual scholarship scheme to advance staff skills.

Inaugural scholarships were awarded in November to Peter Symes (\$8,640) and Seed Bank officer, Meg Hirst (\$2,000). Peter, who has achieved significant savings through his management of the Gardens irrigation system, will now focus on long-term broader strategies as we adapt to climate change. He will visit the west coast of USA to observe technical solutions to water scarcity in botanic gardens, as well as landscapes and plant selection. Meg will visit Kings Park in Perth to study procedures for boosting seed germination

Our wonderful Growing Friends celebrated their 20th anniversary in February, proud to have raised more than \$800,000 for Gardens projects over those years. Individual long service continues to be recognised with Volunteer Service Awards: most recently honoured were Lawrence Cohn and Louise Coronel (25 years) as well as four 15-year and two 10-year members.

The November visit of David Howard, head gardener for HRH the Prince of Wales, was our first experience of organising a major event with the Sydney Friends. It entailed an enormous amount of work but won high exposure for our group as David's three Melbourne lectures attracted capacity audiences. In contrast, a sum of \$5,252 that reached our coffers in February involved much less toil on our part. It was a generous donation from the Melbourne Club – their share of the takings when their secluded walled garden was on show for the Australian Open Garden Scheme.

The RBG's notable Oak Lawn lost one of its most significant and loved trees when Lady Loch's oak split in half, totally unexpectedly, on its 118th birthday in November. Fortunately, some seedlings and cuttings should ensure the dynasty will continue.

The 2008 calendar featuring paintings of the Gardens' oaks by the Friends Botanical Illustrators is now a beautiful bargain for \$5! The group's 'Art of Botanical Illustration' exhibition will take place in Domain House from 8-23 November.

The autumn planting of the Rare and Threatened Species Collection is a culmination of five years of planning, collecting and propagating. One thousand specimens in five beds on Central Lawn will represent major vegetation zones of south-eastern Australia. The Friends and the Director's Circle each donated \$25,000 for the project.

Another exciting development in the Gardens will link an historic curiosity with a modern slant on landscape design and practical water management. Known as Guilfoyle's Volcano, this bluestone-lined water reservoir built in 1876 on the south-east boundary has been fenced off for more than 100 years. Its rocky outcrops, simulated lava flows and land masses will be revealed and landscaped, and access paths created, while the reservoir will store stormwater harvested from nearby streets. Generous funding of \$1.2 million over three years will come from the Myer Foundation.

A third edition of *Plant Names*, a bestseller by Herbarium botanists Roger Spencer and Rob Cross with former colleague Peter Lumley, has been published by CSIRO (rrp \$39.95). It would be a valuable reference for every Friends group.

Heather Ironmonger

FRIENDS OF BURNLEYGARDENS: University of Melbourne Campus Richmond, City of Melbourne

The Friends of Burnley Gardens (FOBG) is a small but active group interested in supporting the historic Burnley Gardens in Richmond, Melbourne, Victoria.

The Gardens are 6 km from the CBD, located on the Yarra River and are the site of the first school of horticulture in Australia. The first plantings occurred in the 1850's and the gardens themselves were officially established in 1863. This makes them one of the oldest botanic gardens in Australia. The site has changed ownership over the years, first belonging to the Royal Horticultural Society, then the Department of Agriculture, the Victorian College of Agriculture and Horticulture and now the University of Melbourne. The Burnley School of Horticulture was established in 1891 and is surrounded by the gardens.

There have been many recent changes at the campus with a new direction established and a new Head of Campus being appointed in 2007. Nigel Stork, the new Head of the University of Melbourne Burnley Gardens Campus addressed the Friends Group in February 2008. Professor Stork explained the Melbourne Model (an innovative undergraduate and postgraduate programme) and his vision for the campus and Gardens. He has developed a Master Plan. He is very keen for Burnley to be a knowledge transfer hub with a multi-disciplinary approach and a truly sustainable campus. He wishes to, incorporate new technologies and have Burnley Campus as a centre of excellence for climate and environmental issues and to continue its role as a hub of horticulture.

For example

Roof-top gardens are being designed. The neighbour has been approached to see if water from their site can be recycled and used on the Burnley Gardens. Water tanks are being installed (to capture water from roofs). UniWater has been approached on water related issues. There is a dedicated short course co-ordinator and a range of exciting new horticultural short courses are available. Work is continuing on the existing Plant Data

Base (expected to be on-line by mid year). There is a new association with The Stephanie Alexander Foundation to bring cooking and gardening to children in schools.

For those interested in learning horticulture there are a range of options. There are undergraduate and post-graduate courses, short courses and practical workshops. For those wanting to visit the Burnley Gardens, there are trained guides to show your group around (by appointment). Members of FOBG can access an interesting lecture programme interspersed with excursions as well as the opportunity for hands-on-horticulture in historic Burnley Gardens themselves.

To contact the Friends of Burnley Gardens or for information or tours, phone 03 9250 6800 or visit our website www.fobg.org.au

Michèle Adler
President

FRIENDS OF MELTON BOTANIC GARDEN **North West of Melbourne, Victoria**

Highlights of 2007 and other news

In its fourth year of operation Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden had a very busy 2007. Significantly, there has been ongoing program to increase community awareness of the role of the organization and its aims. Public forum, shopping centre presence, sausage sizzles, school visits and participation in the Melton-Djerriwarrh Festival have enabled the Friends to gain greater exposure, facilitating increased membership and community participation in its activities.

In association with Rob Small, a leading figure in the Parks industry in New Zealand and Australia and President of the International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration, the concept plan for the Melton Botanic Garden located at the existing Town Centre Park was created. The Melton Shire Council



Town Centre Park site of the Melton Botanic Garden

2007/08 budget set aside \$25,000 towards the landscape design.

The Friends are developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Melton Shire Council which will clearly define the role of Friends in the planning and development of a Botanic Garden and the landscape design brief.

The concept plan defines a number of features: Eucalyptus arboretum, bush foods garden and specific feature beds of South African, Californian, Mediterranean, and West Australian plants. We also plan to enhance the existing indigenous area along Ryan's Creek which flows through the park and adding a bush foods garden.

Presentations by invited experts have been regular events at monthly meetings, furthering broader understanding of topical issues to the benefit of the membership and the Melton community. Topics have been ranged from indigenous plants and vegetation, Boabs, Bottle trees and waterwise gardening to the use of wetland environments for improving waterways.

Regular Clean Up days of the Town Centre Park continue to bring the members together but also supports and accentuates the role of Friends in the development the Botanic Garden. We have recently received a Commonwealth Water Grant to purchase equipment to help with the clean up activities. The Age A2 section, Saturday 20th October,2007 featured an article "Botanic Showpieces",150 years of Botanic Gardens-Ballararat, Malmsbury and Bendigo. Most interesting, the author notes new botanic gardens being established at Berwick, Gisborne and MELTON



Information stall at Bunnings

A highlight of 2006 was on 26th May when the Friends were named a finalist in the Community Pride Award, for the Keep Australia Beautiful 2nd Annual Sustainable Cities Awards.

Tushan Fernando and John Bentley

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN INLAND BOTANIC GARDENS Mildura-Wentworth

Our Friends are looking forward to hosting the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference in 2010. Details will emerge as the time draws closer. Please try to plan for a trip to the interesting Mildura and Wentworth region to join us for the event.

As the drought drags on and some of the street trees around Mildura and beloved specimens on private properties succumb to moisture stress by dropping leaves, dying branch by branch or exhibiting sudden death our Gardens are faring just a little better.

Our Gardens are subject to the water trading rules within the Murray Darling Basin and careful management of any allocation is essential. Fortunately prudent management means we will not experience shortages for our precious assets, the trees and shrubs, in the short term. Water from the Murray River is pumped through filters directly to the Gardens and delivered via individual dripper nozzles to the plants. In the interest of greater efficiency of maintenance of water delivery a change to inline drippers is beginning (due to the time required to check and clean or replace dripper nozzles).

Despite some losses overall the Gardens are looking reasonably healthy. Some of this is due to the emphasis on the planting of exotic species adapted to low rainfall and dry atmosphere, but particularly because of the native and endemic species throughout the greater part of the Gardens.

On Easter Saturday in our Gardens the Sunraysia Farmers Market held perhaps it's most successful day in 28 months of operation on the first and third Saturday morning each month. An estimated 3000 people visited the outdoor market and special craft fair beside in the old Magenta shearing shed.

*Jenny Eagle
Secretary*

GREATER SHEPPARTON BOTANIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

Goulburn Valley Region, Victoria

In the 1970's Victoria's 4th largest regional city of Shepparton, in north-central Victoria, was and still is one of the most multicultural cities in Australia. Having no major public garden a group of visionary citizens proposed the idea of creating one that would celebrate the different cultures of residents in and around Shepparton. A 25 hectare tract of land 4 km from the post office was "sold" to council for \$1 by the local sewerage authority, for the purpose of establishing what became known as International Village. Community groups and council developed a magnificent garden, sculpturing the flat site with undulating hills and a huge moat around the perimeter. Authentic buildings representative of the many cultures were erected, some of which were donated and sponsored by overseas governments as a gesture of goodwill to the Australian people. Prime Minister Bob Hawke endorsed the opening of the Philippine House and embassy representatives attended the opening of other sites. Entry was free and thousands flocked to this major tourist attraction. Locals had a world class public garden on their doorstep. In the 90's, as a means to profit from what was established by the community as a public park and tourist attraction, council imposed a hefty entrance fee which effectively decimated local patronage, as families were the main users of International Village. The name was changed to Parkside Gardens and eventually the fee was abandoned but the damage was done and the site was left to deteriorate. One by one the buildings were sold, vandalized or bull dozed. Although still frequently used by local's council regarded Parkside Gardens as a liability and in 2000 called for submissions from the public as to what its future should be.

Greater Shepparton Botanic Gardens Association Inc formed when a group of citizens proposed developing the site into a Botanic Garden. A fully costed plan, including its financial viability, was the only submission received, but council invited the Rural Land Corporation [now Vic Urban] to submit a plan for a residential development of the site. That plan was accepted and the destruction of Parkside Gardens was put in motion. GSBGA Inc widened its base to become Friends of Parkside Gardens and commenced what became a six year battle to save our only major park/garden. Despite 4000 signatures, representation in parliament, a segment on Stateline, a Heritage Victoria recommendation to include it on a local heritage overlay, numerous letters and presentations to Vic Urban and parliamentarians and a Panels Victoria hearing, the cause was lost in 2006 when the housing development commenced.

Today GSBGA Inc is still active in its pursuit to one day have a botanic garden for Shepparton. Our membership has dropped but a dedicated core remains. Council has a former tip site that it must stabilize and has a grant to rehabilitate the surrounding area around the Goulburn River. Plans have been drawn up to create walking tracks and indigenous plantings around the area.

Our group is in the process of lobbying council to extend the plans to incorporate the idea of a futuristic botanic garden, using some of the principles of the Cranbourne Botanic gardens. A huge mound in the centre is to be capped with clay and will make a wonderful feature, with a lookout over the floodplain and wetlands below. Incorporating water wise principles, local aboriginal gardens and artwork, sculpture, indigenous and compatible plantings and the involvement of the community in vibrant Friends Of group, the potential for a garden of significance is exciting.

Our main focus is to convince council that a botanic garden is a community asset and not a liability. The era of economic rationalization should be behind us. The benefits of major public parks and gardens are felt for generations and we are committed to fight on until Shepparton has its own little piece of paradise!

Allison Martland
Secretary

FRIENDS OF ORANGE BOTANIC GARDENS

Central West, New South Wales

Orange was looking a picture a week ago due to the fact that summer generally has been cool with regular showers of rain and some thunderstorms. The city is on the tightest water restrictions seen in the city and predicted to get tighter. This week 10th March has seen temperatures in the high 20's and set to continue, a browning off of paddocks has started in the area.



Orange Botanic Gardens

The bi-annual In Site Out Exhibition was held late last year in the Gardens and sculptures from far and wide exhibited their works of art. There were some very interesting pieces. Our series of concerts in conjunction with the Orange Conservatorium has just finished and was a success despite the cooler nights and occasional threat of inclement weather.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the gardens and we are busy planning a gala day/possible dinner/donating a feature for the gardens and more. Ideas are still being sourced. This will take place in November.

The usual business at the gardens still takes place with bird walks and garden walks on the first Sunday of the month, homemade morning teas supplied at a modest charge. The Bonsai people are always busy on this day and lookers on are welcome. The Wednesday volunteers have been busy weeding and pruning and have restarted a propagation programme. We also have a plant trolley on the first Sunday and the propagating goes towards filling the trolley with plants for sale. Local Acacias were grown from seed and many were planted out to replace those that had reached their use by date.

A trip to Mt Canobolas was recently undertaken by the volunteers to look at indigenous natives and take some cuttings under licence with our local guru Mick Harvey a Semi-retired Tafe teacher and master know-all of anything native. Mt Canobolas is an extinct volcano and can be seen from almost anywhere in Orange and for kilometres surrounding Orange. A Canobolas garden is to be planted from the cuttings we hope will grow.

Our Happy hour was held in December for all the Friends of the Botanic Gardens -it actually went for longer. Delicious food was supplied by the committee and wine from a local winery plus soft drinks. Everyone enjoyed a bit of socialising.

April 4-6th we will host the Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens called 'Botanic Gardens- where passion bears fruit'.

Susan Sanders, Secretary

FRIENDS OF TAMWORTH REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN INC

Western Region NSW

During October 2007, the new water feature constructed inside the entrance to the Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden was officially “unveiled” at an official ceremony attended by council representatives and executives from the Tamworth Rotary Club, who generously donated the materials for the construction of the large gazebo pictured, in commemoration of 75 years of Rotary in Tamworth.



Pavilion commemorating 75 years of Rotary in Tamwoth



Lower pond in the new water feature.

The feature was designed to fit into the natural gradient at the site, and incorporates three ponds at different levels. The gazebo overlooks a water fountain in the middle pond, and the other picture shows the bottom pond, which features a timber retaining wall at one end. From the bottom pond, water flows to a holding tank, and is reticulated through the system. The ponds were sealed with geotec liner and clay, and then lined with river stones, and shaped with large granite rocks. The ponds are joined with channels also formed from rocks.

Some areas of paving were laid and seats installed at appropriate vantage points. For the time being, the walking path throughout is gravel, but a more permanent surface, as well as some form of garden edging will be laid in the future. Gardens beds were banked up and filled with suitable soil mixes for the plants which were used.

The entire area has been planted with natives, as an example to visitors of native plants which can be successfully used in landscaping, and for their suitability to the local climate. *Lomandras*, *dianellas*, *sedges*, kangaroo paw, *scaevola*, saltbush and prostrate *grevilleas* are some of the species initially planted out. The friends assisted with the cost of the construction with a donation of \$10,000. A team of workers from the Tamworth Correctional Centre provided a labour force for the excavation, building and landscaping not undertaken by specialist contractors.

Some problems to be dealt with in due course include repairing leaks from the ponds, installation of an effective and economical water filtration system, weed control and damage control (from kangaroos and vandals) and ensuring sufficient watering to establish the young plants.

A second development which we are very pleased about is our new potting shed, which has at last been erected by the council after many years of discussion. It is huge, and has provided a greatly improved area in which we can propagate and pot up plants. We are currently designing the “fit out” of storage facilities, potting benches, trolleys and tools, and have moved to purchase a propagating unit incorporating an automatic misting

system. With this new facility, we hope to encourage more members to come along and help and it will also enable us to diversify and increase plant material for use in the garden, for council projects and for our own plant sales.

Christine Reeves

FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

Corio Bay, Victoria

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens had a very busy February. Over 2000 Friends, families and visitors enjoyed our Twilight Music programme held on the first three Sundays of the month. The Irish Music Group attracted a huge audience while the Jazz groups also had many followers. Many of our Friends were involved through marketing efforts, gate duties or with serving refreshments at the Teahouse.

The dry February weather was perfect for events in the Gardens. We have been able to use water on our heritage trees this summer and this has made an enormous difference to the presentation of the gardens.

A wonderful botanical art exhibition of works by our students and their teachers was organised to coincide with the last weekend of Music. The exhibition was opened by Geoffrey Edwards, Director of the Geelong Gallery who was very impressed with the standard of work. Twenty five paintings were sold.

The Geelong Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park Strategic Plan was passed by Council in early February. Replanting of many senescent trees in Eastern Park is an urgent priority. It is gratifying to the Friends that Eastern Park and the Botanic Gardens received Victorian Heritage listing in 2006 after intensive lobbying and a comprehensive presentation by the Friends to a tribunal hearing before the final decision was made. Replanting of Eastern Park with appropriate long lived conifers will now occur in consultation with Heritage Victoria.

Friends are also looking forward to a budget allocation from the City so that the concept design for a new Café and landscape design to link the playspace in Eastern Park with the Gardens can be developed.

Many of our Friends and GBG staff will attend a performance by internationally recognised storyteller Susan Strauss from Oregon U.S.A. Susan uses myths and legends to bring stories of our natural world to life. Education at the GBG continues to be fully funded by the Friends and includes professional development for teachers and environmental educators in the region. The visit by Susan Strauss was made possible with assistance of a Community Arts Grant from the City of Greater Geelong.

I am looking forward to the Association of Friends Conference in Orange and will present a paper titled "Working with Councils".

Jayne Salmon
President

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

Western District, Victoria

Thanks to our coastal location and a good supply of ground water the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens are an oasis of green in a dry western district. The lakes for which the region is known; Gnarpurt, Bolac, Goldsmith, Learmonth, Burrumbeet, Wendouree and many others, are depressingly dry and even Corangamite is reduced to a remnant. The WBG were originally watered from a well in the grounds before the town water supply was available. The well is still there and the Friends would like to reinstate it, complete with windmill as part of a focus on water and its source over the last 150 years. Continuing this theme, drought tolerant plants and advice on waterwise gardens will feature in our next plant sale on Sunday 21st September.

The Fernery, a relic of the nineteenth century and home to a collection of plants and ferns from the Otway Ranges, has been closed for some time as the roof was regarded as unsafe. Last December the Hon. Justin Madden, Minister for Planning and Community Development, visited the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens to present our Heritage Victoria grant of \$29,000 for reconstruction of the fernery. We were delighted and look forward to it reopening soon.

Our Curator, John Sheeley together with his team and the FOWBG hosted staff from Horsham, Colac, Hamilton, Koroit and Geelong Botanic Gardens on a visit to Warrnambool in February. The aim of the day was to network with other Botanic Gardens in the South West and to lift the profile of WBG. We all gained from the contacts made and the knowledge shared.

Warrnambool is fortunate to have a collection of historic films dating from the 1940s. The Gardens feature prominently and their changing landscape is fascinating. Local artist John Wilkins, son of the original photographer has now transferred some of these films onto DVD. John made them available to the Friends, who in cooperation with the Friends of the Warrnambool Art Gallery arranged an evening of film, followed by light refreshments. The event was a sell out and the nostalgia it inspired, a delight.

Pat Varley

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Members May 2008.

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

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

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 Rd, 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

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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, 3353

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, 21 Alphington St. Alphington Vic 3078

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 Vic. 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 47 Kyneton, Vic 3444

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

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

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

Greater Shepparton Gardens Association Inc., C/o A Martland, 9 Regal Rd, Jan Juc, Vic 3228

Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens Inc. PO Box 108 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. 6005

NEW MEMBERS

Friends of Maroochy Regional Bushland Gardens Inc, PO Box 445 Buderim, Queensland 4556

Grampians Flora Botanic Gardens Group, C/o M Sietsma 146 Grampians Rd Halls Gap 3381

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens, PO Box 4268 Hamilton, New Zealand 1701

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RBG Cranbourne

Vice-President: Patricia Bannatyne
Orange Botanic Gardens

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Public Officer Annie McGeachy
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Warrnambool Amanda King
Benalla Betty Lindsay
RBG Sydney Caro Webster
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Campsis

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Forward all *Campsis* material to:

Amanda King: e-mail aking@efel.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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AFBG Web site www.friendsbotanicgardens.org
To include your event on the website contact the Web
editor: E-mail clrdnobs@vic.chariot.net.au OR
those without E-mail, post details to the Secretary.

September: 6TH-9TH
BGANZ (NSW)Regional 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

2009
October 8th-11th
BGANZ Biennial Congress
Mackay Botanic Gardens Queensland

October-? TBA
National Guides Conference
Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, Hobart

2010
AFBG Conference Mildura, Victoria

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.anbg.gov.au
Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra
For interesting articles and papers.
www.bganz.org.au BGANZ-
BotanicGardens of Australia & New Zealand
Secretariat in Canberra.
E-mail Virginia.Berger@deh.gov.au for the
newsletter 'The Botanic Garden'

www.edenproject.com
The Eden Project- contemporary Botanic Garden in
Cornwall, based on conservation and education.

www.bgci.org.uk-gardens/findgarden2html
A good gardens information site for travellers.

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.

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