



Campsis

NEWSLETTER

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

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'New' rainforest at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

BOTANIC GARDENS OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND (BGANZ) CONGRESS: Mackay, Queensland October 8th-11th 2009

Plan(e)t Priority: Regional Reality.

More than 100 delegates from all Australian states and territories and New Zealand gathered in Mackay for the BGANZ biennial congress. Not only were they keen to see the new tropical botanic gardens, opened in 2003, but to take part in the discussions on the role of botanic gardens in dealing with climate change, in line with the theme of the conference

In his welcome address, Philip Moors, BGANZ President & Director/CEO RBGM, pinpointed the driving force behind climate change and environmental degradation – population growth. This was reinforced in a later presentation by Richard Cassells, Climate Leadership – 'Is your botanic garden ready for a 9-million-humans world?'

Mark Webb, CEO Botanic Gardens/Parks Authority WA., suggested some strategies to counteract environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity:

- Develop a 'national safety net' of plants in living ex-situ collections and seed banks.
- Develop an integrated and readily accessible Australian indigenous plant database (see below).
- Monitor plant responses to climate change.
- Increase community awareness of climate change and its effect on the local environment .

- Restore habitats already degraded. May need to use non-endemic species such as those from slightly warmer/drier areas ('assisted migration').

Making botanic gardens environmentally sustainable (land and water management) was stressed often during the congress but Lucy Sutherland (ANBG, Canberra) broadened the concept to include social and economic sustainability. Social sustainability includes equity and democracy e.g. making botanic gardens accessible to all, encouraging community input in their management and conducting visitor surveys. Economic sustainability is also desirable and achievable. Councils will welcome this encouragement for gardens to break free of external funding.

The issue of a national plant collection was championed by Anne Duncan (until recently Director of ANBG) and embraced by the BGANZ Council. This would involve not only standardisation of the curation and documentation of its component sub-collections (in cities and regional areas) but the development of the appropriate computer software to link the databases. Regional botanic gardens are ideally positioned to collect, document and conserve local flora.

The Congress included sessions of concurrent presentations dealing with diverse matters such as visitor services, weed, fire and water management, and design (Bendigo BG master plan and the children's garden within Albury BG). There was also a presentation by one of the sponsors, REPLAS, of recycled plastic products designed for public garden use. Toowoomba was the lucky winner of a raffled large plastic tree guard.

BGANZ was the first group to use the magnificent Mackay Entertainment and Conference Centre for a congress. The quality of the venue was matched only by the excellent catering services. Long tea breaks allowed for lots of networking – arguably the most important component of a meeting such as this. I was able to speak to representatives of several Queensland gardens whom I hope will encourage their Friends groups to join the AFBG.

The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens did not disappoint. The diverse plantings provide beauty and interest and the spectacular birds on the lagoon add an extra dimension. Much can be enjoyed from the viewing deck and café at the Visitors Centre. Four different themed guided walks were offered to congress delegates. One was led by Lawrie Smith, landscape architect, who designed the Mackay Gardens (and several other botanic gardens in Queensland) and is involved in its proposed expansion. Meryl Ritchie showed us, with justifiable pride, the now well-established regional forest sections which she and other members of local Society for Growing Australian Plants had propagated and planted. Garden walks which addressed Gardens management and children's education were also offered.



Lecture Hall at Mackay Congress

My thanks go to BGANZ and AFBG for sponsoring my attendance at this valuable congress. Congratulations and thanks are also due to Mackay Council, Gardens staff and Friends for organising and hosting this most successful and enjoyable event. We look forward to the next Congress, to be held at Alice Springs in 2011..

Patricia Bannatyne, Orange, NSW

Vice President. AFBG

FROM THE SECRETARY

The good news in much of the south is- we have had some spring rain, not nearly enough yet-for the trees, but having a wonderful effect on parched gardens and more importantly providing full dams and a crop for the first time in years for many farmers. I gather it is now our northern counterparts –who are in the dust.

Our latest new member of the AFBG, is one very recently formed, Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens, a very early 19C garden close to Melbourne. We wish the Friends well in their efforts to rekindle support for this garden.

Another new member is ‘pending’ and we are hoping Patricia Bannatyne’s attendance at the Mackay BGANZ Biennial Conference (see article) will generate a few more Queensland members to reach our target of 50 members set about two years ago.

Many of you will know, or know of Jayne Salmon OAM and her tremendous contribution to Geelong B.G, Friends groups and Botanic Gardens in general. Jayne has finally stepped down from the Presidency of the Geelong Friends after 20 years of tireless commitment;- however some will know- Jayne -has definitely not ‘retired’!

Noted in your articles

- Rose lovers, Benalla Friends have extended their marvellous rose garden to include heritage roses.
- There will be some water in Lake Wendouree Ballarat and the Botanic Gardens ‘annuals beds’ are to return!.
- Melton Friends have been rewarded by Council after 6years of effort- with a named ‘Melton Botanic Gardens.’
- Restoration of Guilfoyle’s Volcano at the RBG Melbourne is nearing completion.
- Tasmanian Arboretum is including a Carbon Emission Offset Tree Planting Program.
- Just to hand- Castlemaine 19C Botanic Gardens is about to have a “turning of the sod” commencing the long overdue enhancement plans!

As to conferences and enjoyable networking!

I trust I will meet some of you at either the Australasian Guides Conference in Hobart in November or -at ‘*Secrets of the Mallee*’, AFBG Conference May 21st 23rd 2010 in Mildura

Membership Renewals

I would be delighted to receive *all* your Membership Renewal forms – and cheques, by the due date of December 31st! See YELLOW FORM enclosed.

*Annie McGeachy
Secretary*

FRIENDS OF THE BOTANIC GARDENS OF ADELAIDE

Adelaide City, South Australia

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide (FBGA) continue to be very active, both in fulfilling our role in assisting the Botanic Gardens to fulfil their objects AND in allowing Members to enjoy their involvement with the organisation.

Meetings continue to be well-attended and informative. In August we were treated to an excellent talk about the recently restored Museum of Economic Botany in the Adelaide Botanic Garden. This talk, which was a joint effort by Peter Emmett and Tony Kanellos, traced the history of the building from its construction and opening in 1881, right through to its major restoration and its relaunching, by the Premier of South Australia, Hon Mike Rann MP on 28th of May this year. The story of how various artefacts, which had been dispersed over past decades, were found and retrieved, was worthy of a ‘whodunit’. The end result is outstanding and the funds contributed by the Australian and State Governments and SANTOS, was money well spent in restoring this unique building for the people of Adelaide, and indeed Australia.

Our Annual General Meeting in November is sure to be a full house when we will have Writer and TV Presenter, Sophie Thomson, as our guest speaker. Sophie is best known for her frequent appearances on the ABC *Gardening Australia* program and is an excellent and knowledgeable communicator.

Over the past two years, the Friends, through the good offices of Dr Susan Mann and Ms Meg Dunn, have been undertaking an Oral History of the organisation. This culminated in an excellent presentation by Susan at a “Twilight Meeting” on Tuesday 8th of September and we were privileged to have present on this occasion our Patrons, Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AO CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia and Mrs Liz Scarce. The Governor and Mrs Scarce mingled with the many people present and enjoyed some light refreshments. All in all a most

pleasant and informative evening. Those present were amazed at the amount of work done by Susan and Meg.



Day trips for Members and their friends continue to be well attended and there has been a great variety of such trips offered. One trip which seems to have been particularly enjoyable was the one to Warriparinga (Aboriginal) Cultural Centre, where those who joined the tour, learned a lot about how the indigenous people on the Adelaide Plains lived in and used their environment.

"Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AO CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia, chatting to Lesley Hawkins, Immediate Past President of FBGA (l) and Helena Jenkinson, President of FBGA" (Photo Wynton Milne)

Guided walks are still being well-patronised at all three Gardens, Adelaide, Mount Lofty and Wittunga. In addition to regular walks, special tours are organised to fit in with other events in Adelaide. The next such “special tour” will have a Christmas theme.

Volunteers are busy in so many ways, if it is not Guiding, it might be involvement with the Growing Group, the Craft Group, or staffing the Information Centre or Museum of Economic Botany. Or it could be assisting with Community Events, in which the Friends attend various

public events in, or close to, the Adelaide metropolitan area and distribute information about the Friends in addition to selling material to help our funds.

Just recently some members arranged a very successful Photographic Competition and were very impressed with the high standard of photographs received. These photographs were displayed in North Lodge to allow Members of the public to enjoy them. A selection of photographs taken in the three Botanic Gardens will be used to produce a Calendar for 2010. This project in 2009 proved to be most popular and successful.

During August the Botanical Art Group, which goes from strength to strength, was involved with SALA (South Australian Living Artists) Week. A series of paintings was displayed in North Lodge and those who viewed the exhibition were extremely impressed at the range of talent and quality of the work displayed. This exhibition, which was entitled "Nature Revealed" was opened by Sophie Thomson.



Sophie Thomson & Botanical Art Convenor, Cathy Veide, left, at the opening of 'Nature Revealed'.

The Gazette goes from strength to strength and is publishing a range of excellent articles; deciding what to leave out is the biggest problem. And last, but not least by any means, the Friends Committee has donated \$10,000 to the Gardens to facilitate the moving and consolidation of the Cycad Collection in the Adelaide Botanic Garden. It was felt that this group of plants would be of great interest to 'Nature Revealed'.

the general public and assist the Gardens in fulfilling its role of Education.

As you can see from this short report, the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide are alive and well and thriving.

Ed McAlister.

FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS Gold Fields Region, Victoria

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens will be facing summer much better prepared this year. The drought and severe water restrictions have been addressed and our water supply combining mains and treated water and will be dispersed to appropriate areas on a scientific basis. There will be water in our Lake Wendouree and the annuals we are famous for will be there to lift our spirits.

We have unfortunately lost the battle to retain several of our magnificent heritage *Sequoiadendron Giganteum* trees, but all possible is being done to keep those remaining alive and well.

The "Friends" have had a most successful year. Our membership has increased, and we have added two more groups, namely, the Botanical Art group and a most enthusiastic Education group. The Growing Friends have a trolley outside the conservatory and with the plant sales on a Tuesday afternoon and on the 4th Sunday of the month, make this group our main fund

raiser. The Guides, the History group, the Events and the Computerised labelling group are all very busy and achieving good things.

Our web page has been updated and can be viewed on www.fbbg.org.au and our new Email address is fbbg@ncable.net.au.

We have paid off our new home, the George Longley Building, named after our first curator. We wonder how we ever managed without it.

We have been most fortunate to receive some wonderful donations of special books for our library. The largest from the late Geoffrey Bunn whilst Nigel and Helen Long donated a signed copy of Ernest Lord's "Shrubs and Trees for Australian Gardens", this was the author's personal copy and has annotations in pencil through out the book. We are very proud indeed of what is developing into an excellent and comprehensive library.

General meetings have been well attended. Our guest speaker in May was Sylvia Sargona who spoke on the Empress Josephine's interest and cultivation of Australian plants at her Malmaison Chateau. In August, Mr Ian Mc.Bean, a member of the Trentham sustainability group was the Guest Speaker, his topic was "We are living in interesting times – thoughts on sustainability".

On October 3rd, to coincide with Seniors Month, we are highlighting the work of the Wood workers Guild and items that they have made out of wood from the Botanic Gardens. The Floral Art Society will be giving demonstrations. There will also be plant sales and guided tours of the gardens.

November 20th is the date our Spring Lunch and Workshop. Our celebrities this year are David Glenn, Michael McCoy and Leena Crawford. This function is part of "Ballarat Gardens in Spring" from 20th to 23rd November. There will be 11 gardens open locally during the 4 day event.

Our end of the year BBQ is on November 26th. This is always a relaxed function for the Friends and a time to look back on this year and looking forward to 2010. Our Begonia Festival will be in March and I do hope we will see as many of you as possible then.

*Joan Garner.
President.*

FRIENDS OF BENALLA BOTANICAL GARDENS & RIVERINE PARKLAND North Eastern Victoria

Celebrating 50 years of Benalla's Roses

In 1959 the Benalla Apex Club planted the first roses in the Botanical Gardens to beautify the town's southern entrance. The Friends group is delighted that this year the Benalla Festival will be returning to the traditional spring timeslot in early November, when Benalla and its roses are looking their best. Better still the theme chosen for the Benalla Festival this year is 'Celebrating 50 years of the Roses'.

New Heritage Rose Bed

To mark this 50 year milestone a new Heritage Rose bed has been added at the northern entrance to the Gardens. This follows a review of the Benalla Rose Garden that the Friends organised last year which noted that old world or heritage roses, from about 1850 to 1920, are not well represented in the existing Rose Gardens.



The Friends group has done the main rose selection, design and planting as well as contributing to the cost. We also sourced community funds to purchase the roses and the support structures for the climbers. A feature of the plan is a series of paths that reflect both the historic Sangwell path layout and our modern rose garden design.

Friends' working bee to plant the roses in our new rose bed. Photo courtesy Benalla Ensign

As part of the Benalla Festival (5/11–8/11) ‘A Day in the Gardens’ will be held on Sunday 8th November with a huge market, food and free entertainment in the Botanical Gardens. The Friends will have a special opening of the new rose garden at 1.30pm, with some of the ‘Apexians’ who planted the first roses as our special guests. A free guided tour of the Gardens will follow at 2pm.

Other developments

We’re very pleased that Council has used Federal stimulus funding to carry out some much needed improvements in the Gardens. Our beautiful band rotunda has a freshly painted roof since we planted the new rose bed. Also quite a number of the old garden beds have had steel edging installed, which makes a huge difference to both appearance and ease of maintenance.

Another very positive step is that the Friends group has recently reached agreement with council to share the cost of engaging the Royal Botanic Gardens to review the Benalla Botanical Gardens Conservation Plan. There has been enormous progress since the original plan was done in 2001 but also new challenges to be faced. We believe the revised plan will give us clear priorities for the next few years as well as being an important tool in seeking grants.

*Sally Gamble
President*

FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

Corio Bay, Victoria

A glance into my filing cabinet reveals a collection of *Campsis* dating back to the first issue of the Association's Newsletter in October 1993. As President of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens (FGBG) I wrote my first article for the new publication about our Friends activities and have continued to contribute to *Campsis* twice a year since then.

However, I am delighted to report that FGBG have a new President, Helena Buxton who was elected at our Annual Meeting in August and she or another member of our committee will continue to strongly support *Campsis* with articles about our Friends and Gardens.

It is very pleasing to see the growth in the Association with forty eight financial members Australia wide, having begun as the AFBG (Victoria) Inc. in 1993 comprising eighteen members. Friends groups have been a critical component of Botanic Gardens in Australia for many years now and there was always great camaraderie between groups, as we all struggled to raise awareness in the community of the importance of our gardens. The Association Conferences-hosted by a different Friends group each time, have been a vehicle for local influence providing an excellent educational and promotional stage

Geelong has hosted two Conferences and through both we have been able to considerably influence our local government to further appreciate the importance of their Botanic Gardens. FGBG initiated the 1995 GBG Master Plan which resulted in the building of the exciting 21st Century Garden. However we are still waiting for Stage 2 of the MP to be undertaken!

The Geelong Friends will celebrate their 25th anniversary next year and having been a member of the Group since our inauguration in 1985, I have been able to appreciate the rejuvenation of many regional Botanic Gardens in Victoria and the birth of new Botanic Gardens both here and interstate over this time.

I recently attended the BGANZ plant forum at Ballarat with two of our members and GBG staff and the ASCAP Conference held in Geelong. Again this was an opportunity to meet with old Friends and be impressed with the expertise and knowledge of a young group of horticulturists and environmentalists. These conferences provide the opportunity for us to hear the leaders of our major City Botanic Gardens on a variety of subjects, particularly the climate crisis. It is very important to hear what is going on beyond your own Garden Gate.

The Geelong Friends will host "Inspired by Nature" a Botanical Art Exhibition at the Gordon Gallery of Tafe from 11th – 19th November, to be opened by acclaimed Botanical Artist Jenny Phillips. The exhibition will be well worth a trip to Geelong.

Winter and spring rain in our area has made the most wonderful difference to our Gardens, they look magnificent at present. The Heritage rose beds and the perennial border managed by our Friends are outstanding and the Australian wildflowers have also been a great attraction.

The Geelong Friends were actively involved in the recent Australian Garden History Conference held in at the Conference Centre Geelong (next to the Botanic Gardens). Our merchandise stall was successful in marketing our publication, *The Manual of Practical Gardening* by Daniel Bunce (1838) and cards by some of our botanical artists. I introduced the GBG to the delegates in a short overview of our Gardens on the second day and then joined some of our voluntary guides as we escorted the two hundred plus delegates through the Eastern Parkland to the Botanic Gardens, where they enjoyed a boxed lunch provided by the Friends Tea House. The AGHS delegates were delighted with the Geelong Botanic Gardens, just reward for our hard work.

Over many years we have built up partnerships with other like minded organizations and it has manifested in goodwill and friendship.
Commitment to Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens and the much broader Botanic Garden Community has been and will be continue to be a very rich and rewarding experience.

Jayne Salmon OAM

FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS Canberra, ACT

The Future of ANBG

The Friends are waiting for the results of the very extensive review of the Management plan to emerge and that should happen before the end of the year, although the overall process of locking a new plan in place will take until mid 2010.

In the meantime a major reorganization has been announced by Parks Australia. A new Branch has been created covering Parks and Biodiversity Science and the Australian National Botanic Gardens will fall under that Branch. Dr Judy West has been appointed to head the new Branch and in that capacity she will also be designated as Executive Director of the Gardens. Dr West is currently Program Leader at CSIRO and heads up the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research. Dr West is also Adjunct Professor at the School of Botany and Zoology at the Australian National University. The former Director, Anne Duncan has left the post.

The Gardens remains under considerable pressure for resources and the lack of certainty on long term priorities. Whether the changes and the new management plan will move towards a better matching of priorities and resources remains to be seen. The Friends remain concerned.

Australian Alpine Seed Research

Funding has been provided through the Australian Research Council for an alpine seed ecology project. This is a collaboration between the Friends, the Gardens and the ANU to research methods for conservation of alpine seeds and how Australian alpine plant species can be expected to respond to predicted climate change. The value of the project is approximately \$760000 over 3 years, with \$253000 coming from the ARC grant. Among other things it is intended that the project will lead to a physical display, research and education facility on alpine plants and climate change at ANBG and an interpretive alpine garden.

The Friends have been concerned for some time at the decline of research activity and capacity at ANBG and it is hoped this project will go some way to changing the priorities for the future.

Celebrate our Wattle – Australia’s Golden Emblem Comes of Age

To celebrate the 21st anniversary of the designation of *Acacia pycnantha* (golden wattle) as Australia’s floral emblem, a special exhibition has been mounted by Pat and Warwick Wright on behalf of the Friends of ANBG. The exhibition was opened on Wattle Day (1 September)

by Sir William Deane in the presence of the Minister for Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP.



Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts on the left, Lynne Stone (the artist of the golden wattle sculpture), and Sir William Deane AC KBE, former Governor General, who opened the exhibition. In the background is Peter Taylor, Assistant Secretary, Parks Australia South

Pat and Warwick Wright are giving Wattle talks, on request, to community groups on behalf of the Friends and ANBG

David Coutts

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AUSTRALIAN INLAND BOTANIC GARDENS MILDURA WENTWORTH

Wimmera & Mallee, Victoria

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc. Conference
Theme- ‘Secrets of the Mallee’ **21st-23rd May 2010.**

Friends of the AIBG are looking forward to an autumn conference and sharing the interests of delegates from the wide range of botanic gardens and parks around Australia and New Zealand. It is hoped we will welcome supporters of most of the botanic gardens in the country for a chance to meet new Friends and renew acquaintances in the traditional friendly atmosphere of these conferences.

An introductory letter has been posted to all member groups and registration forms will soon be available. See also the Association website www.friendsbotanicgardens.org. Mildura and Wentworth are well represented on numerous tourist websites on the internet eg; www.visitmildura.com.au and www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/tourism/.

Developments in the Gardens.

Our hard working Nature Trail group has completed the simulated mallee fowl nest along with a detailed information board describing and illustrating the life style of the elusive mallee fowl. Situated an easy walk from the Visitor Centre, the nest was constructed in a typical habitat of mallee trees.

Members of the gardening staff are excited at the prospect of moving into a real staff room after years of inhabiting a (somewhat civilized) corner of the machinery shed at meal times.

Sunraysia Murray Group Training building apprentices have contributed to the construction of a free standing room near the office in our Maintenance Area.

Plans are afoot for a large new name sign at the entrance to the Gardens along with a ‘sculpture’ that currently stands on the outskirts of Wentworth. A description is a little difficult – it is a sphere on a stick, a large bundle of rusty ‘dip tins’ wired together and perched on top of an old electricity pole. Dip tins were used in the dried grape industry for picking into (holding about 15kg fresh grapes) then dipping in a diluted caustic emulsion to enhance the drying process.

Plans are also underway for the Heritage Food Garden but the Rare and Threatened bed is now established and growing well. Nearby are three Wollemi pines and yet another has been donated recently. Who would have thought these trees would grow in our dry climate!

*Jenny Eagle
Secretary*

FRIENDS OF THE MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

North Coast, Queensland

This past six months seems to have passed very quickly as the Gardens staff and Friends prepare for the BGANZ congress to be held in Mackay in early October. There have been many planting ‘bees’ to fill in empty and newly themed beds to make the Gardens look as spectacular as possible for all the visitors to see. Some of our Friends have also committed to helping with individual planting bees mid week. We have been very glad to welcome some new Friends along, including several younger members, to these planting bees. While we had an excellent wet season last summer, unfortunately the dry season has become exactly that - very, very dry. Most of the garden beds are holding up well, but the lawns are starting to brown off and our ‘reverse autumn’ has commenced as the leaves drop to survive the dry and make way for spring buds on tropical deciduous trees.

The Visitors Services Officer, Maya Harrison, has been very busy with school visits during the last few months. She has also been holding activities for school children during the school holidays. These are always booked out and are extremely popular. Enthusiastic children often bring the parents back to visit the Gardens again, thus creating much more awareness of the importance of the Gardens.

Maya is passionate about the insect and bird life in the Gardens. She has a wonderful collection of boxes in which caterpillars and other insects are breeding. Maya feeds them till they pupate, then waits for them to hatch, taking identifying photos along the way. This is of great assistance to the gardeners in identifying some of the more difficult species – as this is the first time many of the host plants have been grown in the area. There is not much printed material identifying which caterpillar turns into which butterfly or moth, or grub into beetle and even identifying how insects change through their stages can make identification difficult! Maya has been given many birds’ nests and snake skins which now adorn her desk surrounds, creating much interest from visitors.

Friends have been busy with some outside activities again as well. We had a stall at the Palm

& Cycad Fete in mid-May and had large crowds visiting the stall and collecting information or purchasing souvenirs. A planned excursion to Slade Point Reserve to look at the flora of the coastal wetlands had to be postponed for another year unfortunately because of wet weather, but Friends were able to enjoy a BBQ lunch in the Shade Garden of the Botanic Gardens followed by a guided walk in the Coal and Geology Gardens.

Landcare Day in the Gardens was held at the end of August, another very successful and well attended event. Friends had an information booth and assisted with many other activities. The very popular guest presenter for the day was Jerry Coleby-Williams from the ABC Gardening Australia show. He was always surrounded by keen gardeners keen to find the answer to their gardening problems. Jerry planted a Silvery Aglaia – *Aglaia elaeagnoidea* in the Regional Shade Tree Grove early in the day with the Gardens Curator, Dale Arvidsson. Jerry planted a tree in recognition that we can all do a little to make a big difference for our environment.

Seven of our Friends are very excitedly preparing to go to the Walking Guides of Botanic Gardens conference in Hobart in early November. We are sure to return full of enthusiasm and hope to see as many of you all there.

*Robin McWhinney
Secretary*

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE Melbourne City, Victoria

William Guilfoyle's dormant volcano – the reservoir built in 1876 – has come out of hiding and is the talking point of the Gardens. Bluestone blocks in the bowl have been lifted and reset over a lining seal. Rocks handpicked at Port Fairy by landscape architect Andrew Laidlaw – weighing up to 11.5 tons each - have been craned into position. Paths are being laid, and planting on the site will be undertaken during spring. A public opening is planned for early next year. The Friends Trust Fund has contributed \$70,000 towards this project.

The extremely low level of the Ornamental Lake continues to cause concern. Design work is underway for the Working Wetlands project, which will provide long-term replenishment for the lake by capturing storm water run-off from nearby streets. It is hoped the scheme will be operating by summer 2010.

Local residents have received a personal letter from Dr Philip Moors, keeping them up-to-date with the Guilfoyle Volcano transformation and inviting their financial support for Working Wetlands.

The RBG has set up a consultancy to formalise its practice of providing expert advice to managers of public parks and gardens in Victoria.

Acting on a staff suggestion, employees with 20 or more years' service now have the opportunity to plant a tree in the Gardens – although without the plaque that accompanies VIP plantings.

A Friends lunch on 26 June was a very happy occasion to celebrate the 90th birthday of Lawrence Cohn. He was our Secretary from 1983 until 2001, and Secretary of the Association of Friends from its inception until 2005; he is still a Trustee of the Friends Trust Fund. Lawrence's wise counsel and mastery of complexity has been invaluable.

A 2010 calendar, Christmas cards and new packs of blank greeting cards – featuring the work of our Botanical Illustrators – are now available from the Friends' office. The Illustrators have been expanding their skills in recent months, studying the age-old tradition of depicting insects with plants and flowers. This demands challenging techniques to convey transparency and iridescence, for example. On another occasion, a scientist/artist pinpointed the numbers, shapes and patterns (radiating, spiral and fractal) which demand accurate botanic illustration. Another class concentrated on techniques for drawing flowers, fruit and vegetables in still life compositions.

BotanicAsia, an exhibition of peony paintings and Asian-themed artwork, will be in Domain House until 25 October. Net proceeds from sales at the exhibition will go to the RBG. Guided walks and talks throughout the Gardens, including the Southern Chinese Collection, will complement the exhibition. The art works have inspired many new items on sale at the Gardens Shop, ranging from prints to tea towels and paperweights.

Illustrations of Eucalypts from the Stan Kelly Collection at the National Herbarium of Victoria are featured in the new N Series Australian passport. The RBG also reaps financial benefits from the reproduction of Australian flora images from the State Botanical Collection on a range of Maxwell and Williams tableware. This is available at the Gardens Shop, through the RBG website and from homeware stores across Australia.

On 8 July the National Aboriginal Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) presented activities in the Gardens for the third successive year. The traditional smoking ceremony, songs, dances, didgeridoo playing and bush tucker were all designed to increase understanding of Aboriginal culture. Attending for the first time, the Victorian Governor, Prof. David de Kretser, spoke at the ceremony. His wife accompanied him.

Education staff at the Gardens are organising a special event on 23 October to raise awareness about climate change. Children will form a large figure 350 with plant material, representing the maximum concentration of carbon dioxide that is acceptable in the atmosphere.

In what could be termed 'good housekeeping', the Friends Council has overseen the production of guidelines for correspondence, and a document setting out the responsibilities of council members, office bearers and committee convenors. Beneficial options for two- and three-year membership payments have been introduced, and a volunteer member who is a trained archivist is sorting through boxes of files dating back to 1982 to set up official Friends records. The Membership and Marketing Committee is thinking of targets – for example, Gardens walkers and dog walkers, mothers with prams and under-fives with their grandparents – who might be recruited as new members.

At our annual general meeting on 16 November, the winner or winners of the 2009 Friends Scholarship Award for RBG staff will be announced. The 2007 recipients have given us very interesting accounts on their studies in the USA and Kings Park, Perth.

Heather Ironmonger

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

Western District, Victoria

The Friends have been meeting every month with our Curator John Sheely and team, to work together in the Gardens – propagating, pruning fruit trees, planting annuals and bulbs. The most innovative of these garden days, known as Curator's Days, was the planting of a water-wise garden with appropriate sub-surface irrigation and interpretive signage developed in cooperation with Wannon Water. It is a very interesting concept and the raised garden bed situated near the Curator's Cottage near the main entrance is accessible for visitors to study.

Final improvements to the Fernery include sub-surface irrigation and rejuvenated paths that expose the stonework in keeping with the old structure. For the official opening in October, we still have to label all the ferns and design an interpretive board. This will complete the restoration work, which was commenced two years ago.

The fernery opening will be held in conjunction with the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Friends.

Our AGM was held last month at South West TAFE, an excellent venue . The Mayor, Cr. Michael Neoh attended and later was able to meet members and hear our concerns, in particular, the closing of the Cockman Street entrance to the Gardens and the need for adequate signage through the city.

Janet O'Hehir gave a very interesting talk on the history of Camperdown Botanic Gardens, which were founded in 1869 and have several heritage listed trees, including a fine avenue of Linden, *Tilia europaea*. Janet is studying at Melbourne University and as part of her Master's Degree in Urban Horticulture she has chosen to study Friend's groups and their role in four botanical gardens in south west Victoria: Portland, Hamilton, Colac and us. We are keen to cooperate in this study.

Tim Hubbard, Heritage Adviser, reported on the 19th century cannons in the South West of Victoria. After extensive research the cannon in the Gardens was assessed as of national and possibly world significance. The carriage, of Burmese teak is in poor condition. It will be removed and conserved and the barrel will be mounted on a temporary stand while a reproduction carriage is built, ensuring that the cannon remains in the Gardens where it has been for the last 100 years.

Our annual Spring Garden Day will take place on Sunday, 20th September, 11- 2pm. Friends are busy potting up plants for sale and making plans for the day. We hope if you are in the district you will come along and join in the fun.

Marigold Curtis

FRIENDS OF ORANGE BOTANIC GARDENS

Central West, New South Wales

After a quiet winter we launched into spring with our annual Lecture/Luncheon. This year our guest speaker was Richard Perram, Director of Bathurst Regional Art Gallery. His lavishly illustrated talk looked at three sculpture parks in three different countries in the Northern hemisphere. These were Storm King Sculpture Park in the Hudson Valley outside

New York, USA, the Kröller Müller Museum and Sculpture Park in the Hoge Veluwe National Park in the Netherlands and Little Sparta, the poet Ian Hamilton Finlay's sculpture garden in the Pentland Hills, near Edinburgh, Scotland. Following the talk we enjoyed a delightful hot lunch, complemented by local wines, courtesy of our very talented catering team.



Opening of 'bite this' exhibition

in the Orange district. The exhibition has been curated by local artist Gabriella Hegyes with the assistance of a committee drawn from the Friends and local researchers. The centrepiece of the display is Gabriella's tree, currently hung with apples, which can form the basis of subsequent displays. There are also historic orcharding artefacts including a wooden spraycart

This exhibition is the first one developed by the Friends for the Discovery Centre, a small general purpose venue within the Gardens. We are also taking this opportunity to commence using part of this space to do some merchandising and to offer Gardens information to visitors in a more personal way. Our exhibition is open at weekends until the end of March 2010.

Orange City Council has organised a Spring Garden Festival which is a loosely associated group of events, with the key event being an exhibition at the Orange Regional Gallery. Called Orange Blossoms, the exhibition explores the evolution of gardens in the Orange district from the pioneering era to the present day.

To complement Orange Blossoms, the Friends have prepared an exhibition that highlights the history of the apple industry



Antique spraycart outside the Discovery centre

TASMANIAN ARBORETUM Devonport, Tasmania

For an organization with an annual budget of about \$1 per m² we seem to keep busy with development, making much with little.

We have opened to planting the collection areas set aside for much of North America and the Mediterranean, all of the Himalayan - Central and Western Asian and Southern Africa, making some 20ha in total.

We have continued planting the Eastern Asian, and expanding the Tasmanian Collections along with some planting in the Gondwana and South American Collections

This has allowed the collections to grow. In terms of taxa we now have over 4,000

distributed among over 900 species. Our area size lends itself to multiple planting which also gives some security to the collections.

Much of our exotica may have been collected ex-situ, but the range of our climate places the distribution of many of the plants we can hold, in countries with developed systems of in-situ and ex-situ plant conservation.

Whilst we would be happy to co-operate with conservation programs outside of Tasmania, if those places are unable to conserve the complex that makes up their ecosystems, our contribution to the conservation of such complexes would be limited.

Instead, we are now viewing our collections as a means of conserving heritage material from earlier introductions to Tasmania- and as a vehicle for education in concert with our interpretation of some of the geographic and thematic collections and an interpretation of lichens.

Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management has secured 2 years funding support for our educational programs. Educational programs run throughout the year but have a focus in May with the local Arbour Week. These activities are conducted by volunteers.

We replaced a major bridge linking to our Aotearoa New Zealand collection and to elements of our new Limestone Heritage Walk. This new bridge was with the financial assistance of the Tasmanian Community Fund.

We have increased our total area through the purchase of a disused quarry, securing our core from the intrusion of conflicting activities and providing an area for our Carbon Emission Offset Tree Planting Program. Our carbon offset planting will, as it matures, provide a food source for the endangered swift parrot

We have purchased a new 45hp tractor and now have a plan for replacement of plant and equipment.

We have refurbished the walk through our botanical annexe at Hogg creek, some 10km away. Green Corp has assisted with that refurbishment, fencing off the Carbon Emission Offset Tree Planting and other works

Thanks to volunteer input the Tree Park Café now operates October through to May. It is with the dedicated work of volunteers and the support of a few work program/ community obligation participants that we are able to maintain the Arboretum now its area under management as a park has grown.

FRIENDS OF THE MELTON BOTANIC GARDEN INC

North West of Melbourne, Victoria



Some happy Melton members at Buninyong Botanic Garden.

Where are the Melton Botanic Gardens?

When established 6 years ago this question was asked at most events that the Friends attended. Now, with hard work and strong use of every media source, we are on the map! It has been confirmed that due to the work of the Friends, naming of our requested but unnamed park is now to be called: Melton Botanic Garden encompassing 22hectares. Directional and site signage to the Park is also being arranged.

Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden (FMBG) have had a successful year. With the support of the Melton Council, a landscape design has been developed and the first plantings in July 2008 were made. Our Volunteers have since planted over 10,000 indigenous plants along Ryans Creek within the Garden. Grants from Melbourne Water, Melton Shire Council and Vision for Werribee Plains have provided funds for plantings and FMBG have also provided funds for plants.

The Friends have regular Grow the Garden planting and weeding days, propagation days and clean up days at the Garden. We also provide social nights and tours for our members to see other Gardens and events.

On the 5th September 2009 the Friends held our first Open Day and invited the people of Melton Shire to walk through the site, view the pegged out gardens proposed in the Landscape Plans and purchase plants propagated by our members. A lot of hard work was involved but with about 250 visitors and invited guests coming to see the site and understand the future design the day was a success. Forty-three FMBG volunteers helped to make this a great day.

With the hard work of the last 6 years, our strong membership and the links we have made with other local Groups we are maintaining our aims towards the major step of opening the Melton Botanic Garden. Because we are new we can enhance our own community and all visitors awareness of what can be achieved with water saving ideas and a variety of garden styles supportive of a low rainfall area.

Everyone is welcome to look on our website: www.fmbg.org.au for our landscape design and all information on Friends of the Melton Botanic Garden Inc.

*Janet Dyke
Secretary*

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens October 2009

A.C.T.

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc., GPO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT, 2601
Friends of Canberra Arboretum, PO Box 48, Campbell ACT 2612

New South Wales.

Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 1056, Albury, NSW 2640
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 North Coast Regional Botanic Gardens Inc, PO Box 648 Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
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
Stony Range Regional Botanic Garden Adv.Comm. Stony Range Botanic Garden, 369 Pittwater Rd,
Dee Why NSW 2099
Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens Inc, PO Box 1393, Tamworth,,NSW 2340

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

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
Grampians Flora Botanic Gardens Group,C/o M Sietsma 146 Grampians Rd Halls Gap 3381
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 69, 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., 1000 Bullarto Rd. Cranbourne Vic 3977
Friends of the RBG, Melbourne Inc., Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne, Vic. 3004
Friends of Sale Botanical Gardens,PO Box 506, Sale, 3850
Greater Shepparton Gardens Association Inc., 5 Gina Crt, Shepparton Vic 3630
Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens Inc, 5018 Ararat, St Arnaud Rd, Tottington Vic 3477
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
***Friend of Williamstown Botanic Garden Inc, PO Box 826 Williamstown Vic 3016
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 Zealand

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

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

President: Alex Smart
RBG Cranbourne
Vice-President: Patricia Bannatyne
Orange BG
Secretary/Treasurer: Annie McGeachy
Public Officer: Annie McGeachy
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Committee:
RBG Melb. Janet Thomson
Ballarat Elizabeth Gilfillan
Canberra Warwick Wright
Warrnambool Amanda King
Benalla Betty Lindsay
Mildura Ken Mansell
RBG Sydney Caro Webster

Website editor Judith Bailey
Newsletter Amanda King
Annie McGeachy

Postal Address:
Assoc. of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.
16 Pavo St Belmont VIC 3216

Email: anniemcg@internode.on.net
Telephone: 03 5243 7728
Website: friendsbotanicgardens.org

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We welcome your articles, photographs and important calendar events for inclusion

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Amanda King: e-mail;
friends@wbgardens.com.au
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual Membership is for a calendar year. New memberships paid 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:
Assoc. of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc
The Secretary,
16 Pavo St. Belmont VIC 3216

CALENDAR 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.

2009

November 5th-8 th
'Celebrating 50years of Roses'
Benalla Botanic Gardens

November 9-13
Australian National Guides Conference
Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, Hobart

November 11th -19th
"Inspired by Nature"
Botanical Art Exhibition at the Gordon Gallery Tafe
Cnr. Fenwick St & Gordon Ave Geelong

2010

May 21st to 23rd
"Secrets of the Mallee"
Assoc. of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference
Australian Inland Botanic Garden, Mildura, Victoria

October 5th-8th.
10th Annual National Heritage Rose Conference
Brisbane

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Are Botanic Gardens Fit for Purpose?

A question addressed to the Directors of the four national botanic gardens of the United Kingdom and Ireland
<http://www.bgci.org/resources/news/0573/>

ANZ Charitable Trusts

It is the sole trustee or co-trustee of approximately 400 charitable trusts, settlements and foundations –Trusts
www.anz.com.au/australia/charitabletrusts/guidelines.asp

The latest **Grants guide** is available
see <http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/page.asp?ID=417>

BGANZ on line Newsletter. *The Botanic Garden*
www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/newsletter

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