



# Campsis

NEWSLETTER

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

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## AUSTRALIAN INLAND BOTANIC GARDENS MILDURA WENTWORTH

Wimmera & Mallee, Victoria

### Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference held 22nd – 23rd May 2010 “Secrets of the Mallee”

One of the special privileges for a Friends group is to be selected to host an AFBG biennial conference. Following the successful 2008 conference at the Orange Botanic Gardens our Friends enthusiastically embarked on a long planning process with the support of our AIB Gardens members and staff and the generosity of many in the Sunraysia community.

It was a great relief when completed registration forms finally began to arrive! More Friends volunteers were called upon to become part of this enjoyable and memorable experience for members of AIBG who thoroughly enjoyed their interaction with thoughtful, friendly and appreciative delegates.



Most delegates arrived on the Friday in time for a Civic Welcome by the Mayor of Mildura Rural City Council. Formalities were followed by food and drink and much congeniality.

Down to serious business on Saturday with the opening presentation by Tony Mason, local consulting geologist, who revealed recent discoveries through the use of modern technologies in geological research in the Murray Basin. New observations raise many questions when comparing with previous studies of millions of years of geological history. Faulting, ocean level changes, fluvial deposition and volcanic activity all contributed to our current distribution of plant species in the Basin.

Dr Fiona Murdoch, Restoration Ecologist, presented her engaging research into the effects of changing rabbit populations on regeneration of Buloke *Allocasuarina luehmannii* trees in the Hattah Kulkyne National Park. Degradation of the woodlands can only be halted

by almost total eradication of rabbits. An exceptional high rainfall event is simply not enough for regeneration.

Claire Wilkinson, a Ranger for the NSW Department of Environment, ClimateChange and Water gave a comprehensive report on the role of the AIBG in conservation of indigenous species via a Rare and Threatened Species Bed, rehabilitation plans for the Riverine Reserve and Controlled Burning in the undeveloped Western Reserve.

Jeremy Giddings, NSW Department of Industry and Investment presented diagrams and photographs showing the potential for drip irrigation in the urban environment with warnings to be careful with the design of any system prior to installation. Best results are obtained when all technical requirements are satisfied. Maintenance of the system is vital for healthy plants. Drip irrigation is installed throughout the AIBG

Tom Murphy, Irrigation Agronomist, spoke about the advantages of using technology for soil moisture monitoring for scheduling irrigations with reference to the EnviroSCAN equipment used in our Gardens.

Wendy Hallinan, Education Officer at the AIBG entertained us with a light-hearted look at the attributes of water wise plants and how to recognize these. Wendy also conducted a quiz between the speaker presentations just to be sure everyone stayed awake!

Cheryl Rix, General Manager Western Murray Irrigation, irrigator of citrus and grapes gave a thought-provoking presentation on water management in the Murray Darling Basin, the value of irrigated food and fibre production and the entwinement of environmental, social and economic factors to be considered by the authorities. Much has been achieved by local irrigators installing water saving technology and adopting other farming practices to lower environmental impacts and increase efficiency.

Emily Moskwa presented interesting results for the University of South Australia study, Senior Australians and Benefits in Botanic Gardens. Conclusions were that seniors were satisfied with volunteering and likely to recommend that volunteering to others. Many formed an attachment to their botanic gardens and motivations for volunteering included a love of gardens, the desire to contribute to society and for social networking.

Representatives of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, Melton Botanic Gardens, Wilson Botanic Park, Bendigo Botanic Gardens, Hamilton Botanic Gardens, Albury Botanic Gardens and the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens gave us updates on new projects and some history and outline of the special features of the respective gardens. These were very well received, an important contribution to the programme.

The AGM included some fairly enthusiastic discussion regarding the future of the Association and there will be more to come. New members were welcomed to the Committee of AFBG.

Tours and walks in the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens were included in the programme and optional dinner, bird watching, paddleboat ride on the Murray River, and pre and post conference tours completed the extended weekend so that partners of delegates were also able to participate.

Now we look forward to 2012 and the conference at the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens, Port Augusta.

*Jenny Eagle, Secretary*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### National Register of Big Trees

Members may be interested to nominate trees for the National Register of Big Trees. Australia's largest trees, whether indigenous or exotic are of interest. Trees are rated using a formula which considers girth, height and crown spread. When I read about this project in the winter 2010 edition of 'Our Gardens' the quarterly journal of The Garden Clubs of Australia I immediately thought of an incredible Oak in the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens. It may not be the tallest Oak in Australia but its spread is remarkable.

I found the web-site [www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au](http://www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au) to be of great interest. It web-site covers the objectives of the register, instructions on how to nominate your special tree and a fabulous photo gallery. I particularly benefited from the section on measuring trees and I adopted the method which employs a right angled triangle with two equal sides. Having made one from scrap plywood I can now estimate the height of a tree within, say, 1 or 1.5 metres.

Derek McIntosh, born in South Africa and now residing in Sydney is the creator and co-ordinator of the register. His wonderful initiative deserves support and it could be great fun to submit a nomination. There is no charge for a nomination and there could be the satisfaction of having listed a champion tree.

*Alex Smart*

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## FROM THE SECRETARY

Rain, Rain, rain-storms- and still more to come?

Who would have believed it a year ago? Our challenging Australian climatic cycle of drought, fire, pestilence & floods rarely disappoints - and frequently overwhelms!

Victorian Botanic Gardens have been rejoicing. They're not totally sodden like many in our northern states, but your articles also reveal the wild weather has created considerable damage and challenges for many gardens, to which Friends have risen- as always.

However from across 'the ditch' in earthquake territory, we welcome our latest member, Friends of Christchurch Botanic Gardens - bringing our total to 52 members, with two being from New Zealand.

The Secretary says that the earthquake caused only "some slumping of the Avon riverbank in one corner of the gardens and a water sculpture developed a leak" It should be noted that Christchurch will host the 2014 Aust. Guides Conference.

Reports indicate the recent AFBG Conference hosted by the AIBG Mildura, was well supported by enthusiastic members and very successful. Congratulations to Friends of AIBG for a job well done. (See article)

**Early planning** –next AFBG Conference 2012 August 17-20 at Port Augusta.

My thanks to members for your constructive responses to the AFBG Committee questions about the AFBG and future administration of the AFBG

Committee are exploring options to rationalise AFBG (national) administration, simplify the Secretarial position, hopefully making interstate Committee of Management membership and management more practical. It will of course increase our operating costs.

At the October COM Meeting the following decisions were made.

- To investigate:
  - Permanent professional management of our website, improved design etc. \*
  - A formal arrangement for *Campsis*, production/editing and distribution.
- To utilise 'Skype' for COM communication.
- Determine a more balanced membership fees structure. \*\*
- Investigate options for external funding sources
  
- To reinstate the original President succession protocol, being that the position is held by the President of the Friends' group acting as AFBG Conference host, thereby changing every two years.
- Endeavour to create closer and mutually beneficial links with BGANZ

It is intended to have the above changes in place before AGM March 2011

\* Our thanks to Website Editor, Judith Bailey/ Ballarat who has generously given of her time and effort for 7 years. We will gradually relieve Judith of this task over the next few months.

#### **Membership and membership fees \*\***

We have slightly increased membership fees commencing January 1st 2011.  
The fee for Friends' groups with up to 500 members will rise by \$5 to \$30 per annum.  
For groups with over 500 members the annual fee will be \$100.

This month your Membership Renewal form will be posted separately from Campsis, to ensure it is sited by your Secretary and hopefully paid promptly –please. Thanks to the 30% who respond quickly - as follow up is *very* time consuming.

#### **18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, May 23<sup>rd</sup> (Mildura)**

Retiring committee members, Betty Lindsay, Benalla and Caro Webster, RBG Sydney were thanked for their contribution.

The following Member representatives were elected.

#### **Officers**

**Pres.** Alex Smart, RBG Cranbourne,

**Vice Pres.** Gillian Davis, Port Augusta

**Secretary/Public Officer/Campsis Ed.** Annie McGeachy, Geelong,

**Treasurer** Graeme Caple, RBG Melbourne,

## Members

Janet Thomson RBGM, Mandy King Warrnambool, (Campsis format) Elizabeth Gilfillan Ballarat, Warwick Wright ANBG Canberra, Patricia Bannatyne, Orange, John Zwar Port Augusta, Leigh Coggins Hamilton Vic.

It should be noted that COM representatives attending AFBG Committee meetings have the option of subsidised travel expenses.

**Campsis** - photograph sizes- TOO big, time consuming problem for Editor Annie & Mandy

Please **reduce** each photograph to email size a maximum of 50-70kbs'approx -before sending- and-include underlying text.- too difficult otherwise and Campsis doc too large.- Thank you

## New Secretary

Dear Friends, I have resigned from the position as AFBG Secretary which will become effective at the 19<sup>th</sup> AGM, March 18<sup>th</sup> 2011, to be held at the RBGM.

I feel 6 years will have been enough of a challenge for me as the organisation continues to grow and I thank you for your support. I have enjoyed our many and varied communications and in particular, occasionally being able to 'put a face' to an email author.

Hopefully the changes we are exploring will greatly simplify the AFBG administration and the Secretarial position for future committee members.

| *Yours in Friendship, Annie Mc.G*

**Don't forget- Australasian Guides Conference, Brisbane Sept 12-16<sup>th</sup> 2011**

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## FRIENDS OF AUSTRALIAN ARID LANDS BOTANIC GARDEN

**Port Augusta, South Australia**



*Sturt desert pea- Swansonia Formosa, Roxby Downs SA*

With the country looking the best I have seen in about 20 years and the wildflowers looking just wonderful with acres of Sturt desert pea, daisies, *eremophilas*, *crotalarias*

and many others too numerous to mention it is no wonder our visitor numbers have increased.

The Australian Arid lands Botanic Garden is also bursting with colour as many spring flowering plants are covered in buds and flowers. Plants we haven't seen in the garden for many years are again emerging and flowering after the wonderful rains we have had over the last 6months.

Planning is well underway for the Friends of Botanic Gardens convention here in 2012. The Friends and management are looking at developing a "Help desk" at the AALBG cafe as there seems to be a need for something like this with many questions from travellers and visitors about Arid Plants, where and when to find them and other general information.

We have just hosted a group of 28 Friends and Guides from the Adelaide Botanic Gardens taking them on Bird walk and a guided tour of the Garden after breakfast. This was a good chance for exchanging ideas and information on guiding and fund raising. A wonderful day was had by all.

*Christine Nayda, Secretary*

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## **FRIENDS OF AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS**

### **Canberra, ACT**

In October 1970 Prime Minister John Gorton unveiled a plaque officially opening the Canberra Botanic Gardens. In October 1990 the Friends of the ANBG was launched by the founding Director of the Gardens, Lindsay Pryor. So in October 2010, from Monday 18 to Sunday 24, the now Australian National Botanic Gardens celebrated its 40th birthday and the Friends of the ANBG its 20th.



*Planting the redesigned grassy woodlands*

by Friends and admin. staff (in suits or fishnet stockings), planted out multiple grasses, daisies, lilies, forbs. In spring and summer it will look spectacular.

and sunny, beautiful spring weather. On the Monday celebrations started with a very botanical event, the planting out of the re-designed Grassy Woodlands, the first section visitors see as they enter the Gardens. It is now a sculpted landscape with a winding recycled wooden path, boulders from nearby road works and an ephemeral waterway. Horticulturalists, helped

Wednesday was cake-cutting day and the day the Friends handed over to the Gardens our birthday present, a magnificent shade shelter over the Crosbie Morrison amphitheatre. Alan Munns, President of the Friends, 'launched' the shelter; the enormous chocolate



mud cake was cut by Alan and Judy West, Executive Director of the Gardens and the assembled throng managed to eat only about one quarter of it.

The Friends present a lecture each Thursday and on this special Thursday the speaker was Murray Fagg, employee of the Gardens for all forty years and a Friend for twenty. His talk was personal reminiscences about the first twenty years, prompted and illustrated by his collection of historic photos.



Friday night we became formal with a black tie dinner in a marquee on the Rock Garden Lawn. Gardens' staff had been busy: The path through the Rainforest Gully was marked with lanterns; 60-year-old eucalypts and a young Wollemi Pine were spot lit; the marquee was full of ferns and flowering orchids. The dinner and wines, based on local organic products, were delicious. We were entertained in turn by the singing Stiletto's; the after-dinner speaker, Chris Darwin, great, great grandson of the great man; and the band Smooth Operator.

*Life members Anne Joyce, Barbara Daly and Alison McKenzie cutting the birthday cake on 24 October*

On Saturday night it rained, so the Garden Party Open Day dawned overcast and cool, but by lunchtime the sky was blue. About 5,000 people wandered in the Gardens and enjoyed entertainment and activities: a parade of sustainable fashions; a 'fascinators' competition; lectures in the marquee; painting for children; bands and singers; and guided tours behind the scenes. Ngunawal elder, Jeanette Phillips, welcomed us to country. Speeches were made by Dr Judy West (Director), Senator Kate Lundy (supporter) and Anne Joyce who joined fellow Life Friends, Alison McKenzie and Barbara Daly, to cut another large cake. At least 1,000 people helped demolish it plus numerous bottles of bubbly.

The week of celebrations was a great success and we are all looking forward confidently to another decade of achievement in creating a wonderful national botanic garden.

*Anne Rawson*

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## **FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS OF ADELAIDE**

### **Adelaide City, South Australia**

Things at the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide are going on very much as usual; this means at a frenetic pace! Not only are the Friends busy but staff are being stretched to the limit, recent government-imposed budget cuts have not helped in any way in this latter regard.

The Guides continue with their regular Guided Walks at all three Gardens, but in addition have undertaken special walks for event such as Tasting Australia, all of which have proven very popular and successful. In early November this group, plus some other Friends, spent three days in the South Australian Arid Zone, which included a visit to the Arid Lands Botanic Garden in Port Augusta. From all accounts this was very successful.

Regular General Meetings and Twilight Talks continue and the excellent range of speakers has been greatly enjoyed. In a break from “normality” the committee organised a Quiz Night and a Games Afternoon (of the indoor type) and these were judged to be successful, both from a financial and an enjoyment perspective. Another innovative fund-raising initiative was tried this year; this was the offering of Entertainment Books and this too was felt to be well worth while.

Once again, this year a Photographic Competition was held and, as usual, the entries were of a high standard. Also, as has become ‘traditional’, one of the winning photographs has been used on the front cover of the October edition of the Friends Gazette, another activity which seems to improve with each edition. A number of the photographs from the competition will be used in the 2011 Calendar.

The Botanical Art group continued with its exciting range of workshops, often bringing in outside experts, including interstate ones, to share their knowledge. The standard of work produced by this group is exceptional and it also raises some much-needed funds for the organisation.

The North Lodge Group has also been extremely busy with a range of displays in the Lodge, some of which are also from outside organisations. These exhibitions have attracted a good number of people to the Lodge and helped to increase our profile in the community.

The Growing Group has had a difficult year as the cold, wet growing conditions at Mount Lofty Botanic garden this year have meant that plants have just “sat still”. However a reasonable number of plants have been produced and some funds raised on behalf of the Friends. Some of these plants were taken along to the ABC Car Park Caper by the Community Relations Group and found a ready market. This group also participated in a number of shows in different parts of the metropolitan area and do sterling work in raising our profile. Their next event will be involvement in an Herb Day on 7 November. No plants will be sold, just information being given.

The Tours group has been very successful and has had day and half-day tours within the Adelaide and Adelaide Hills region, but has also ventured to the Riverland for a four-day trip, which proved very successful. They are also embarking on 20 day tour to visit exceptional gardens in France in May 2011; this does look like a most exciting tour.

In general terms the committee has been busy supporting the Garden in a number of ways. Quite apart from the many hundreds, or thousands of hours of voluntary labour donated we have made donations to projects within the Gardens. In addition to things, such as landscape projects, which can be easily seen, the Friends continue to offer the Gwen Thomas Scholarship and make a yearly donation to the Botanic Gardens Library. A Water-Wise Day, to which approximately 20 outside organisations have been invited to help celebrate National Water week has been organised for October 17 and it would appear that this will be successful.

The Botanic Garden staff are busy in all three Gardens now that spring is upon us and the wet winter, caused not only an explosion of colour, but also an explosion of weeds. The staff in Adelaide Botanic garden has the extra problem of all of the work being undertaken in Botanic Park to rationalise parking and the extra work being caused by the creation of a new Western Entrance on the site of the old Royal Adelaide Hospital Car Park. This work has caused a number of problems for patrons and staff alike but, no doubt this time next year we will feel that it has been all worth while!

| *Ed McAlister, Gazette Editor*



# FRIENDS OF EUROBODALLA REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Batemans Bay, New South Wales

## Huge Storm Damage at the Gardens

Those gale force winds over last weekend, especially in the early morning of Sunday 5 September, have brought down trees, snapped off branches, and severely damaged the new Orchid House. The pictures below and overleaf, taken on Monday afternoon 6th September, give some idea of the extent.



*Damaged orchid house*

There is a great deal of work to be done in cleaning up. If you are a Gardens volunteer who is able to do some physical work, such as dragging the smaller branches to the chipper, please come to the Gardens to help on weekdays. Do not bring your own chainsaw as you all know the rules about who is allowed to use such equipment. But strong leather gloves would be an advantage. Deep Creek Dam Road has now been partly cleared so that entry to the Gardens via the Nursery is possible. The Gardens' phones are out, and we hope will be restored by Wednesday 8 September.

Of course some of the work will have to be done by contractors with specialized machines. If you wish to donate to that work, please make your cheque or money order to 'Friends of the Gardens'. If you require tax deductibility, make it to 'Friends of the Gardens Trust Fund'.

Gardens Manager John Knight hopes to have the Visitors Centre area open this Wednesday 8th September, but not all paths will be cleared by then.

The new Orchid House is partly smashed. Just as well Bruce, Ken and Norm, who did most of the construction work, are away. It looks as though the orchids are safe, but some of the new plantings may not survive.

*Sue Grahame*

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## **FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS**

**Eastern Park, Geelong Victoria.**

On November 25 the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens will celebrate a partnership of 25 years with the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

To mark this milestone a 'Silver Friendship' dinner will be held on the November 25<sup>th</sup> and promises to be a memorable evening of great company, good food and much reminiscence.

Also-in the gardens- a 'silver border' has been designed by our perennial border Friends with the assistance of garden staff and is now flourishing along the entrance pathway in the 20<sup>th</sup> century garden.

The silver border will be included in the guided walks and is supported by the Growers who have propagated the plants for sale to the public.

Our usual Christmas event in December, held in the gardens, will provide the opportunity for more of our members to participate in the celebrations.

The Geelong Friends have been very fortunate to have had so many passionate, committed and talented members over the 25 years that has enabled the original small group of Friends to grow to a diverse support group for the GBG with over 500 members. A very active Friends Committee of Management has participated in numerous GBG projects and supported our Voluntary Guide program, Growing Friends Nursery, Friends Tea House, Schools Education Program and lecture series, GBG Reference Library, Botanic Art Classes and many events and tours.

The list of members to acknowledge for these achievements is well beyond this article.

With great support from Botanic Gardens' staff, we have met many challenges, enjoyed great friendship and camaraderie, had a few disappointments -but not lost our focus-and been thrilled when a long sought after project comes to fruition- the opening of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Garden in 2002 and the Geelong Botanic Gardens Eastern Park listing on the Victorian Heritage Register in 2006.

We look forward to another wonderful 25 years for the garden- well perhaps some of us!

To the Botanic Garden and Eastern Park

Over the last year the City has revisited the 1995/2007 Master plan, reviewing its original intent and ensuring the Plan remains dynamic and relevant to our community. Importantly the review also ensures that elements of the historic landscape are reinstated.

During winter a large number of aged and diseased trees were removed from Eastern Park. A section of the circuit road was then planted with *Pinus pinea* and *Eucalyptus leucocxylon*. The coming year will see significant additions to the *Pinetum* and an expansion of the botanic collection within the arboretum in Eastern Park.

*Annie McGeachy*

*Helena Buxton, President.*

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# FRIENDS OF THE MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

North Coast, Queensland

Once more our Friends group has had a very productive, busy and enjoyable year, despite the trauma of the cyclone damage in March.

Friends have been very involved in the aftermath of the cyclone, helping to document the damage, as well as assisting with cleaning up and replanting. One of our Friends spent hundreds of hours at the computer working with the Curator recording in detail how the plants in the Gardens were affected by the rain and winds before and during the cyclone. This information will be crucial in planning for the species of plants and horticultural practises to be used in future plantings.



*Monsoon area after the cyclone, new plantings ready and being watered in.*

There have been extra planting bees this year to replant many of the devastated areas. In early October, the last planting bee for the year was held in the Monsoon themed area of the Australian Regional Flora Terraces, when trees bought with a very generous donation from Queen Mary Botanic Gardens, St Arnaud, Victoria, were placed in the ground. Rather than spend the donation on a couple of large trees, we chose to use many small plants as they grow so fast in the tropics - we will have a mini forest in only a few years. 16 Friends planted almost 200 replacement plants in the very empty beds in just a few hours.

The ten year Master plan for MRBG was adopted by Mackay Regional Council in early July, much to the delight of all involved. Many Friends were committed members of the review committee which worked so industriously to achieve the adoption of the plan over an entire year. Now we just need to obtain further funding to bring many of the goals to fruition.

The Tropical Shade Garden became a 'sun garden' after the cyclone, with several large specimens felled, but again the Friends helped with extensive planting here with 175 plants in September, so that the garden beds no longer look bare and shade should be back again soon.



*The Digital microscope at work*

LandCare Day is an annual event promoting sustainability and this year had the theme ... *Kids – make a difference in your backyards*. The weather was rather inclement, but the event was a huge success, with Friends again very involved in the activities. The digital microscope which we purchased last year was a smash hit with the children, who collected a bucket of water from the lagoon, then were able to suck up and look at the minute critters they found. Seeing the images projected on a large screen was so much better than just looking through an ordinary microscope!

The excursion to Slade Point Reserve was finally able to take place this year in May, much to the delight and enlightenment of our members. The walk was hosted by one of the region's plant authorities, Friend Irene Champion. Much to the delight of the Friends who chose to walk the few kilometres back to picnic ground, the Curator had the BBQ lunch well and truly ready on everyone's return. A very relaxed barbecue followed on the beachfront.

Friends have been committed all year to many areas of the Gardens operations – including the Garden's Herbarium, reviewing and selecting appropriate plants for the Gardens via the Horticultural Reference Group, assisting the Visitor Services Program with hosting guided walks and with large school visits and of course the late evenings spent in animated discussion on the Friends Management Committee.

*Robin McWhinney*

*Secretary*

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## **FRIENDS OF MALMSBURY BOTANIC GARDENS & ENVIRONS**

**Macedon Ranges Shire, Victoria**

The Malmsbury Botanic Gardens are unique in that they are situated in the hub of the town with close proximity to the town hall, shopping strip, railway station, the Coliban River and water race. The gardens are about 6 hectare in size and one of the oldest botanic gardens in Victoria. The Friends of the Malmsbury Gardens & Environs (FOMGE) group was formed in 2000 and has been taking an active role in the care and development of the gardens and environs. The large number of visitors to the gardens has not diminished since the town (population approx 450) was bypassed in April 2008. The gardens, tennis court, fish hatchery, drainage system were heritage listed in 2002.

The magnificent, 5 arched, railway bluestone viaduct spanning the Coliban River can be viewed spectacularly from the gardens and is celebrating 150 years since it was built. The town is having a viaduct party on 24 October and FOMGE is organising an historical town photo as a memento of this important occasion.



*Friends Planting the Dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides** for the future of the gardens, in the interests of community give guidelines for appropriate development and plantings. FOMGE is assisting Macedon Ranges Shire Council to speed up the process in obtaining a new plan and the Gilfedder report will be an important guide.



With help from other residents and groups from the town FOMGE encouraged council to make changes to the drainage system so that rain water would flow into the lake from the deep guttering in the main road. The lake was completely dry early this year. With the recent heavy rains the new drainage system enabled the lake and two billabongs to overflow into the river. We are all very pleased with the result (as well as the ducks).

The Friends have reviewed and adjusted the register of trees and have recently planted a Dawn Redwood, part of an ongoing plan to replace trees and shrubs which have died or been removed since the gardens were first established around 1863. Decisions on new plantings will take into account the changing climate and continued diminished water supply. The 2 water tanks installed in 2008 and mulching, will remain important measures for the challenge of maintaining the gardens in the increasing dry spells.

FOMGE hosted a walk in September through the gardens with Kevin Walsh, landscape designer and ABC regional radio presenter, who is currently implementing the Master Plan for the Bendigo Botanic Gardens. Kevin had a lot of background information about the gardens as he was the first full time gardener employed for one year in 1984 for the purpose of overseeing their restoration.



*Malmsbury Gardens Autumn 2009  
Nea Gyorffy*

Employing adequate staff for maintenance and improvement of the gardens is a concern as only 1.5 staff are employed to manage the three botanic gardens in the Macedon Ranges Shire (Gisborne, Kyneton and Malmsbury).

A new website was established early this year by Professor Roger Cousens: Department of Resource Management & Geography, Melbourne University and we welcome you to take peek. <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~malmsbot>

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## **FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE**

**Melbourne City, Victoria**



*Growing Friends Spring Plant sale*

Our half-yearly Growing Friends Plant Sales and Botanical Illustrators biennial exhibitions – The Art of Botanical Illustration – represent hundreds of hours of sustained volunteer effort and are the major source of income for the Friends.

The Spring Plant Sale on 2-3 October was blessed with a wonderful array of plants and rare warm sunshine, but faced stiff competition from the replay of the AFL grand final on the Saturday. So we were gratified to record a profit of \$22,780 (after



deducting GST). This was above recent levels, suggesting winter rains led to a resurgence of interest in plant purchases.

Growing Friends are providing plants and propagating 'to order' to assist the repair of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens which were damaged by vandals earlier this year. Another small group of our Members known as Helping Hands undertake regular planting and maintenance of gardens at two RBG Lodges.

Our artist Friends will stage their 10<sup>th</sup> Art of Botanical Illustration exhibition in Domain House between 6 and 21 November. This is always an impressive display; more than 150 paintings by 76 artists, including some from overseas, will be hung. The highly reputed Susannah Blaxill from NSW has been invited to show six works as guest artist. Unframed paintings and artists' cards will also be for sale.

This year a watercolour of *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* by Marta Salamon is reproduced on the Friends' Christmas card and 12 paintings from the Friends illustrated garden collection are featured on our 2011 calendar. Another Member, Sandra Sanger, was awarded a Gold Medal and 'Best in Show' for her series of Australian eucalyptus studies at the Royal Horticultural Society's botanical exhibition in Birmingham in June. The RHS bought one of her paintings.

The Friends have agreed to support a Science of Botanical Illustration exhibition to coincide with the 18th International Botanical Congress in Melbourne from 18 July to 7 August 2011. Curated by Mali Moir and her team, it will feature works by leading Australian illustrators.

Our Activities program during the past six months has included illustrated talks on Trees for Autumn Colour, the Care and Value of Trees during Climate Change, Plant Collecting in New Caledonia and the Himalayas, and the international influence of the English Gardening Style. On another evening we were fascinated by remote and wild Australian landscapes, captured by our speaker's twin skills as a helicopter pilot and photographer. A winter perennial – a morning screening of films about British gardens – was popular as ever, while demand for a Yarra cruise far exceeded its capacity. A walk exploring the historic Gate Lodges and other RBG buildings was fully booked as was one telling the history of the Tan (which encircles the Gardens and is currently being revamped).

Our Membership and Marketing Committee has initiated a monthly E-Bulletin with news of special offers and extra events arranged at short notice. They have also introduced a quarterly draw as an incentive for Members to renew promptly, with a free year of membership as a prize.

Janet Thomson, who has been an outstanding President of the Friends, will reach the end of her four-year term at our Annual General Meeting on 15 November. She has won respect as a wise and effective leader, liaising constructively with RBG management, RBG Cranbourne and other gardens through the Association of Friends of Australian Botanic Gardens Inc.

Chris Cole succeeded Richard Barley as Director of RBG's Melbourne Gardens Division in July. Most recently Chris worked as Curator of Townsville Botanic Gardens and then Manager of Horticulture and Arboriculture for Townsville City Council. His early training at RBG Kew and work at Hampton Court laid an impressive foundation for his career. Chris is organising some horticultural workshops with staff as part of his look at management of the Melbourne Gardens. He believes that all future plans, including landscape succession, must take account of climate change.



A Discovery Walk established behind the National Herbarium throws light on the institution's priceless collections and important scientific programs – until now largely unknown to the public. Jointly funded by the Friends and the RBG Foundation, the Walk was opened in August. Changing displays of specimens, images, text and books explain the Herbarium's history and the range of research undertaken there. Most of the species planted in the redeveloped surrounding garden have a connection with botanists associated with the Herbarium, beginning with Ferdinand von Mueller.

*An interpretive display and the bust of Ferdinand von Mueller at the Herbarium Discovery Walk. Photo: Dr. Richard Kirsner*

Chris Cole succeeded Richard Barley as Director of

The Friends have added their financial support to that of the Victorian Government, The Myer Foundation and the Sidney Myer Fund as part of their 2009 Commemorative Grants Program, Melbourne Water and private donors to launch a major project known as Working Wetlands. This scheme will harvest storm water from surrounding streets, pass it through bio-filtering wetlands and then circulate it into the Ornamental Lake. This aims to achieve a reliable volume of water in the Lake and improve its water quality. A further stage is planned to reduce the Gardens' reliance on mains water for irrigation.

*Heather Ironmonger*

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## MAROOCHY REGIONAL BUSHLAND BOTANIC GARDENS

Sunshine Coast, Queensland

### *Adiantum diaphanum*

At the MRBBG the form is large and robust, forming colonies of soft green ferns in several places.



*Seen here near the cranes.*

*Adiantum diaphanum* is a soft filmy maidenhair fern. Normally it grows in damp spots beside creeks, in the rocks under a waterfall and in rainforests, usually in deep shade and sheltered places. It is commonly a small fern – often only 10 cms although it can grow to 30 cms. Here in the gardens, the fern grows to 30 cms and is growing generally anywhere in the fern glade. The fern is distinguished by the presence of a few black hairs on the lamina – no other *Adiantum* having black hairs. It has a smooth, thin, dark stipe, the lamina divides 2 or 3 times, the frond is semi-erect to drooping, and it has proliferous buds on the roots. In cultivation, it reproduces prolifically by root buds and sporing when moisture and humidity are maintained.

*Wendy Johnston*

# **FRIENDS OF TAMWORTH REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN INC**

**New England NSW**

A small but committed crew of members of the Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Garden continue to attend our working bees and fundraising days. They are mostly members of the committee, along with a few other 'regulars'. We have changed our working bee day from Saturday to Friday, but this has not made any difference to attendance at working bees. Dwindling membership is one of the challenges we currently face. Current membership is only about 50% of what it was about five years ago. We promote membership at our sale days held three times a year and occasionally at other venues, but there is not much interest from visitors in joining the group. Articles also appear in the local press several times throughout the year, but they do not appear to generate enquiries either. It is an issue we need to address.

We also do not have enough volunteers from the membership to man our kiosk for visitor information, catering, or even on our open days. There was a proposal put forward recently to upgrade the facility and allow it to operate commercially. This arrangement would benefit the friends in terms of providing a source of income and relieving the group of the responsibility of management. However, without an injection of funds from other parties or from council for the upgrade, this is unlikely to go ahead in the foreseeable future.

We have expressed our concerns to council regarding a few issues. One is the increasing number of "memorial" sites within the garden. Council agreed to prepare a set of guidelines regarding limiting the dimensions of memorial plaques and an application procedure governing the planting of trees etc as memorials, which went some way towards alleviating our concerns. Another issue which we regularly discuss is the lack of sufficient staff at the botanic garden, and the failure to provide for new permanent employees to replace short term trainees and staff members due to retire shortly. We feel that a permanent curator is desperately needed and will continue to lobby council for this to happen. A new general manager has recently been appointed, we fervently hope that the new management hierarchy will give equal consideration to the development of the botanic garden as is given to sporting facilities in the town.

On a more positive note, there are developments in the garden. Council used grant funds received to lay pavers on the paths within the water feature and the 'floor' of the bush chapel. The seating at the chapel was also replaced. Some new pathways in the grounds were formed. A section of these will in future form an attractive walk around the dam which was supposed to be lined and filled before the end of September, however, this work remains unfinished.

At last both electricity and water have been connected to our propagating unit, and we have commenced with some cuttings. Our aim is to produce plants at the lowest possible cost for our fundraising sales, as well as for garden projects. It will also provide an additional activity for new members keen to do propagation and fulfil part of our educational aims as well.

The Friends are collaborating with the Tamworth Australian Plants Society to grow selected threatened and endangered species in an area of the botanic garden. Grant funds of \$20000 were received to get the project started. To date, the site has been selected and an access track formed. Landscaping earthworks have been completed and mulch has been spread over the area to stabilize earth banks. The next step will be the installation of an irrigation system, for which the materials have been ordered.

Planning has commenced for a Correas of NSW collection to be established. The Correa Study Group in Armidale, NSW will provide the cuttings, plants and growing information to support the project. Currently, the suitability of potential sites is being considered.

Our enthusiasm is renewed when new projects such as these arise, we look forward to 2011.

*Christine Reeves  
Publicity Officer*

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## **FRIENDS OF WOMBAT HILL BOTANIC GARDENS**

### **Central Highlands, Victoria**

Three members thoroughly enjoyed our attendance (May) in Wentworth/Mildura at the national Friends' conference, which, of course, focused on the health and management of the Murray – and of the Inland Botanic Gardens. With the rain and environmental flows, the region looked very good.

Our June Taylor & Sangster (T&S) public lecture was well attended. Melbourne decorator and local resident, Stuart Rattle presented the story of his gardens development and redevelopment and drew many garden lovers from across the region. The 7pm talk at the Daylesford Neighborhood Centre in Camp St. will be followed by supper and the final talk in November will be Neil Marriott on the Myers' Garden in Dunkeld.

Late in November we will travel by bus to Ercildoune when the garden is open in Burrumbeet.

The big trees of WHBG have certainly had a good drink in the last few months. The rain has drizzled or poured, and the water has drained deep into the chocolate soil. The plant material in the Friends' Garden Bed is filling out and plumping up. It's well worth a visit to the Gardens to check how it looks below the main east-west path. It was created by Annie Pyers and friends to demonstrate cool-climate plants that grow in the shade. Working bees continue there early each month.

*The large trees along the paths provide wonderful summer shade*

Lake House's proposal for a cafe in the Gardens has been through two rounds at the Planning Tribunal and will now move to Council approval and the alterations stage. How we look forward to this area of the Gardens coming back to life.

Council has kindly offered the Friends use of the shed formerly occupied by Gardens' staff. It is a big space for storage (and a base for school visits) which contains a smaller enclosed office. We await further discussion about a DSE lease.

In a break from the cold Daylesford winter, I really enjoyed revisiting the Sydney Botanic Gardens' spring border and seeing the exhibition that is part of the fabulous Kauri Project -a bat-ruined tree- slabbed and turned into very fine timber works from a boat to library stairs, boxes and bowls.

*Gael Shannon,  
President*



## FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

Western District, Victoria

We have lost one of our beautiful Himalayan Cypresses. It would have been planted early last century and was situated next to the fernery close to the Canary Island Pine and Moreton Bay Fig. It fell down in the strong winds and storms which lashed the Western District last month, crashing down over the path and falling on the Anchor Plant. It had grown to 20 metres and it is a miracle that it did not fall over the fernery causing immeasurable damage.

Luckily we have another one in the *Pinetum*, equally old and tall, known for its fine trunk with red-fissured bark.

The Anchor plant is a very rare plant native to South America, dating back to von Mueller's time. It has no leaves but 'stems' which branch upwards in the shape of an anchor. It has small white flowers which are fragrant. We understand that there is a similar plant in the Geelong Botanic Gardens which suggests that they are part of experiments with acclimatization carried out by Von Mueller.



This valuable plant has survived thanks to the careful attention given to it by 'the team'.

*Storm damage -*

Many of the trees in Warrnambool Botanic Gardens were planted in the 1870s and are now aged. This together with more than a decade of low rainfall has left them vulnerable to the storms and wild winds of the last few months.

One old giant of a Monterey Pine fell. It is thought to be one of the few perimeter plantings remaining from seedlings donated by von Mueller. It completely and neatly filled the depot yard, but avoided damaging any of the built structures.

A contemporary of the pine, a Monterey Cypress which fell some time earlier, is about to return to the gardens in a new guise. With the support of a local sawyer and an enthusiastic Woodworkers group, it has been milled and worked into a reproduction carriage for a 19<sup>th</sup> century cannon. This year marks the centenary of the cannon being placed in the gardens. It is fondly remembered by those who clambered over it as children and who now have worked on its restoration

*Marigold Curtis*

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# **FRIENDS OF SALE BOTANIC GARDENS**

**Gippsland, Victoria**



## **Sale Botanic Gardens Celebrates their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Sale Botanic Gardens have been celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary throughout 2010 in the form of a program of monthly events aimed at involving the community and reconnecting them to the Gardens.

The Sale Botanic Gardens (SBG) Friends Group formed a working committee at the end of 2009 to organise a calendar of events to celebrate this significant garden milestone. The group worked in partnership with Wellington Shire Council and various other community organisations to organise the activities and, nine months into the program, every event run has been a fantastic success managing to significantly raise the profile of the gardens within the broader community. The success of the events to date has inspired the Friends commence planning for more events on an ongoing annual basis.

The first event for the year saw the Australia Day Celebrations being held in the Gardens. February was a great success with ‘Festivale’- a food, wine and garden festival with music in the gardens, food stalls art and craft and guided walking tours of the gardens by notables such as Richard Barley and Andrew Laidlaw. A focus of their walk was around the newly created “Summer Walk”, a garden that promotes the use of low water use plants and sustainable gardening practices. The world famous Roulettes provided a fly over demonstration in the afternoon, putting on a fantastic show for all of those who attended. The event saw over 5000 people come together in the SBG to enjoy the day.

The Friends have tried to vary these monthly activities in a way that we can attract a wide cross section of the community, with ‘paint outs’, photography workshops, Family Fun Days, a High Tea and also educational activities such as rose pruning demonstrations.

In November, Sale Botanic Gardens are hosting the BGANZ Plants Forum ‘Future Focused – Horticulture for a Changing Climate’, so all hands are on deck now to ensure our Gardens are looking their best for this event.

The year’s activities will be topped off by Christmas Carols in the Gardens, with Sale City Band performing in a brand new performance space, ‘The Leaf’, currently under construction in the Gardens.

The SBG Friends Group is made up of enthusiasts from a diverse range of backgrounds, including representatives from Sale Special School and Wilson Lodge Nursing Home.

Without their assistance in organising these events, the year couldn’t have been as successful as it has been to date.

## ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

**President:** Alex Smart  
RBG Cranbourne  
**Vice-President:** Geraldine Davis  
Port Augusta  
**Secretary/Public Officer:**  
Geelong Annie McGeachy  
**Treasurer** Graeme Caple  
RBG Melbourne

**Committee:**  
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Ballarat Elizabeth Gilfillan  
Canberra Warwick Wright  
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Warrnambool Amanda King  
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### Campsis

*Campsis* is published twice a year in May and November.

We welcome your articles and REDUCED photographs-and important calendar events for inclusion

Closing dates are 30th March and 30th September approximately 6 weeks prior to publication.

### Send all *Campsis* articles to:

Amanda King:

E-mail: [friends@wbgardens.com.au](mailto:friends@wbgardens.com.au)

OR by post to

P.O Box 987, Warrnambool VIC 3280

Editor & Printing Annie McGeachy

Format & processing Amanda King.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual Membership is for a calendar year. New memberships paid after August 1<sup>st</sup> are valid until December 31<sup>st</sup> the following year.

Forms available on the website.

#### Annual Membership fees

**\$30 for up to 500 members**

**\$100 over 500 members.**

Cheque or Money Order should be made payable to:

Assoc. of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc

The Treasurer, C/o

16 Pavo St. Belmont VIC 3216

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2010

#### MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDENS

November 6-21<sup>st</sup>

“10<sup>th</sup> Art of Botanical Illustration” The exhibition in Domain House. This is always impressive with more than 150 paintings by 76 artists, including guest artist Susannah Blaxill from NSW.

### 2011

July 18<sup>th</sup> to 7 August.

18th International Botanical Congress in Melbourne

September 12-16

Australasian Conference of Volunteer Guides in Botanic Gardens. Brisbane Botanic Gardens

### 2012

August 17-20

AFBG Conference: Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens Port Augusta S.A

## WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Gardening Australia ABC [www.abc.net.au/gardening](http://www.abc.net.au/gardening)

Australian National Botanic Gardens, garden information

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/index.html>

Plants for the Planet, join up:

[www.plantsfortheplanet.com](http://www.plantsfortheplanet.com)

This is an interesting one

[www.prov.vic.gov.au/publications/research/research.asp](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/publications/research/research.asp)

The latest **Grants guide** is now available

see <http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/page.asp?ID=417>

[www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/newsletter](http://www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/newsletter)

For access to the online Newsletter; *The Botanic Garden*.

*The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens. The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Committee. Neither the Association Committee nor the Association members accepts responsibility for statement or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable information.*

# Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens November 2010

## 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 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

\*\* Friends of Burrendong Arboretum, Po Box 465, Wellington, NSW 2820

## 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

\*\* Friends of Peacehaven Botanic Park 30 Sunray Drive, Highfields Queensland 4352

## 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 Fultton 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,

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## New Zealand

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