

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL
BOTANIC GARDENS



NEWSLETTER
VOL. 1 - JULY 92

JULY 1991

Dear Friends,

This is our first official newsletter to you. We hope you will find it informative and that it will help stimulate your interest in remaining an active Friends of The Warrnambool Gardens.

The inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Warrnambool Garden was held on Tuesday, 23rd June, 1992 at the Tourist Information Centre.

Mrs. Ellen Dwyer welcomed the Mayor, Cr. David Atkinson and his wife, members and guests to the meeting.

Mrs. Dwyer, as President of the original Steering Committee formed in 1989, submitted the following report:

The Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens have again had a busy year during 1991/92.

In July we celebrated the completion of our reconstruction of the Fountain and the restoration of the Sun Dial with a formal opening by the Mayor of our City, Councillor Atkinson. The opening was attended by representatives of various Community Groups including the Warrnambool Rotary Club which had provided funds and the Warrnambool Plumbers Association who had voluntarily carried out the plumbing work. The guests were entertained at afternoon tea in the Gardens after the opening.

Our group was delighted when Dr. Jim Willis accepted our invitation to give a public lecture on famous Botanic Gardens throughout the World. Unfortunately his lecture coincided with unbelievably bad weather in August and his talk was punctuated throughout the night by barrages of hail stones. Despite the terrible weather, Dr. Willis delivered a most interesting talk which gave great pleasure to those who attended.

This year our Warrnambool Botanic Gardens were placed on the National Estate Register and this recognition gave us great satisfaction. We know how important our Gardens are but it is very important that our Councillors and the General Public know that these gardens are of great significance and must be cared for accordingly.

Our Gardens are well past their centenary and old age has now caught up with many of the trees. In particular, the perimeter pine trees are deteriorating and are gradually being replaced in a planned fashion so that wind damage to the interior of the Gardens will be minimised.

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Unfortunately, despite careful attention to removing the worst limbs, the perimeter pines have continued to drop a limb or two and this has caused one Councillor to demand that all the remaining perimeter trees be felled immediately. Richard Barley, a noted adviser on trees, was again invited to come to Warrnambool and advise on the offending trees.

An inspection of the trees was held and although the Councillor in question was not present on the occasion, we had the Mayor, the City Manager and the Director of Technical Services plus several Councillors in attendance. Richard again reiterated his former recommendation that we employ a qualified Arborist.

The Council has acted on Richard's recommendations and so certain trees have been felled and others have been trimmed to ensure their safety. These trees will remain to form a protective wind-break for perhaps another eight years.

Apart from employing a qualified Arborist, I see our most pressing requirement being an overall planting scheme for the Gardens. We need someone with specialist knowledge and skill to provide us with a detailed plan of trees, shrubs and plants that would fill out and enhance the present shrubberies and garden beds. Ours is a Guilfoyle Garden and it is most important that his original concept be maintained and enhanced rather than altered.

+ 992: When forming our Friends Group, one of our aims was to encourage people to come and use the Gardens and to this end we have run a series of Concerts on Sunday afternoons during February and March. These Concerts have proved to be very popular and so we repeated the same program this year. We invited the Senior Citizens Band, the Salvation Army Band, the Warrnambool City Band, The Warrnambool Symphony Orchestra, Shearwater (Irish Group) and the Warrnambool and District Highland Band to participate in this free Sunday entertainment.

I am extremely grateful to Isobel Jones who has been responsible for the organisation of these Concerts which have provided great pleasure to those who have attended.

For our local Wunta Festival, we were asked to repeat the Tea Dance which was held last year at the water's edge. Again, this year, the function proved to be a great success.

The Holiday Actors are a Junior Theatrical Group in Warrnambool and last year they performed "The Adventures of Mr. Toad" in our Gardens. This year they created four delightful and amusing plays inspired by Roald Dahl's poems. The money they raised will go into the restoration of a very lovely old Victorian Lamp in the Gardens. As a group, they are delighted to have a project of their own and we will acknowledge their contribution with a plaque on the lamp.

In May of 1991 the Friends of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens issued invitations to all the Friends' Groups throughout Victoria to attend a Weekend Seminar to discuss matters of mutual interest. Representatives from eight different Provincial Gardens presented reports and commented on the support they were getting from the Local Community. The concept of forming an Association of "Friends" Groups to assist in co-ordinating ideas and projects of common interest was discussed and it was agreed that an "Umbrella" type Association be formed.

In May of this year we were again invited to the second Weekend Seminar in Melbourne. At that meeting, twelve Botanic Gardens were represented and we voted unanimously to form an Umbrella Association formally called an Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Incorporated. The purpose of the Association is to provide links between the Friends' Groups throughout Victoria and also to provide a Forum for the exchange of ideas and for helping one another. It also provides a unifying body which will be helpful should we need to approach Local or State Governments for help in promoting our Gardens.

In November of last year we were invited to set up a Plant Stall at the "Wingfield" garden of Mr. & Mrs. Neville Smith which was opened for the Victorian Garden Scheme. We made over \$850.00 on the Stall and with the generous donation of another \$500.00 from Mr. & Mrs. Smith from the gate takings, we have money in hand for our next project.

There is still more to be done and many improvements to be made, both in the Gardens itself, and with the Friends Group. The Committee has given me great support over the year and I hope this year that we are able to have a Newsletter coming out about four times a year to keep members fully informed on our activities.

In concluding this Report, I wish to thank all the Committee Members for their enthusiasm and support throughout the year. I am also very grateful for the tremendous support we have received from the Mayor and Councillors together with the City Manager and in particular, the Director of Technical Services who has been an enthusiastic supporter of improvements to the Gardens. We also wish to thank the Garden Curator, Mr. Terry O'Sullivan and his team for the excellent cooperation and relationship we have enjoyed during the year.

The past year has been one of great achievement and I believe that the activities of our Group have enhanced the public image of the Gardens and of our citizens' awareness of this great asset. I am confident we will continue into the next year with great enthusiasm and look forward to further improvements being achieved in our Botanic Gardens.

Ellen M. Dwyer,
President

Mrs. Dawn Smith presented an income and expenditure statement to 23 June 1992 which showed the Friends had achieved a credit balance of \$3160.86.

1992 A constitution was adopted at the meeting and a resolution passed that the Group be incorporated.

Cr. Atkinson installed the following officebearers and committee members for the year 1992/93:

President	Mrs. Ellen Dwyer
Vice President	Mrs. Thelma Lynch
Secretary	Mrs. Isobel Jones
Assistant Secretary	Mrs. Kath Wicherson
Treasurer	Mrs. Dawn Smith
Committee:	Mrs. Jean Fitzpatrick
	Mrs. Lorraine Richardson
	Mrs. Marigold Curtis
	Mrs. Barbara O'Brien
	Mrs. Judy Phillips
	Mrs. Judy Loch

A membership fee of \$5.00 per annum was approved for the year 1992/93. Subscriptions are now due and may be paid direct to the Treasurer or by completing the application form below.

The "Friends" plan to grow and develop and members are encouraged to find new members. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in the preservation and promotion of the Garden - THE GARDENS NEED YOU!

We would welcome some male input to our enterprise.

APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP OR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1993.

TO: The Treasurer
Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens,
"Wingfield",
38 Ardlie Street,
WARRNAMBOOL VIC. 3280

I, MR/MRS/MS/MISS _____
Please print Given Name and Surname

of _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone: _____

- WISH TO - RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP Please tick one box
- APPLY FOR NEW MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS AND NOW PAY \$5.00 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
- DO NOT WISH TO BECOME A MEMBER AT THIS STAGE BUT ENCLOSE A DONATION TO HELP FINANCE FUTURE PROJECTS.

SIGNED DATE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. OPEN GARDEN DAY - Grant and Beryl Warnock's
28TH NOVEMBER, 1992 "Rosemount",
SOUTHERN CROSS

(Further details/Ellen)

It would be appreciated if members could pot cuttings for the plant stall, assist by making items for the general stall or offer any suggestions for fund raising at this event.

2. KIM PRETLOVE will speak on his tour of European Gardens on Tuesday, 1st September at Warrnambool Art Gallery at 7.30 p.m.
3. CHRISTMAS DRINKS FOR "FRIENDS" IN THE GARDEN
on (Sunday 13/20th December)
4. CONTINUATION OF THE SUCCESSFUL FEB/MARCH 'SUNDAY MUSIC IN THE GARDENS' - Summer 1993 - Every Sunday in February and March (except for the long weekend in March).

FUTURE PLANS FOR THE GARDEN

1. Restoration of Gas Lamp
(Further details/Ellen)
2. Voluntary Guides to take visitors on a walk through the Gardens. IS ANYONE INTERESTED?
3. More seats in the Garden - Interest has been shown by people wishing to donate seating to commemorate family members.

The Committee would also be interested to hear from any person who has a suggestion to offer which would help in the preservation or promotion of the Warrnambool Botanical Gardens.

PLEASE PASS ON THIS NEWSLETTER TO ANYONE YOU FEEL MAY BE INTERESTED IN OUR GARDENS.