



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 7. WINTER, 1995



Annual General Meeting

We have decided to hold the meeting at the Tourist Information Centre in Warrnambool, on Wednesday, 28th June, at 5:30pm. Please note at an earlier time than previous years. This occasion marks the retirement of our Foundation President, Ellen Dwyer, who has worked tirelessly to lead the Friends through the first few years.

We will collect subscriptions for 1995/6 year at this meeting, or if you prefer to mail your \$7:00 to Kathy Wicherson on the attached form it would be appreciated. We have had to increase the annual subscription a little and we are sorry for this but it seems necessary to cover rising costs of printing and postage.

Conservation & Development Plan for the Botanic Gardens

In April we heard the good news that the Development Plan for our gardens as prepared by Orr-Young, Mallon and S.F. Landscape Consultants has been formally adopted by the Warrnambool City Council. This is the plan for the future development of the Gardens - its plantings, renovation and maintenance - all in keeping with the original William Guilfoyle design. It is the result of hundreds of hours of work on the part of the Landscape Consultants and Steering Committee throughout last year.

The Council is currently reviewing its budget for 1995/6 and by the end of June will decide on works to be undertaken in accordance with the plan.

It is disappointing to Friends that Peter Reeve, formerly Technical Services Director for the Council, who has taken such an interest in the plan, has left the Council to join the Shire of Moyne. His work on the Steering Committee and his support of the many renovation projects the Friends have undertaken over the past few years have been invaluable and we wish him well in his future job.

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne - 1996 Project

The Regional Botanic Gardens 1996 Project is to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the RBGM and the centenary of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller's death by reliving von Mueller's work in sending out tree specimens to provincial gardens throughout Victoria. The Friends have already met with Trish Vanloon who is one of the Planning Department staff handling this important project. We have drawn up a list of trees which would suit the gardens, with particular emphasis on increasing the range of conifers in the Pinetum section and adding numerous interesting trees to the East, in accordance with the Conservation and Development Plan. Many trees have been propagated from the RBGM collection and several are already growing well in 140mm pots for distribution next year.

Von Mueller Pine Trees - The Royal Botanic Gardens recently contacted us to say that they have propagated some pine trees from seed which they found in the Herbarium, listed as having come from the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens in 1992. This is the seed taken from the original pine trees sent to us by von Mueller over a hundred years ago! We have requested that several be put aside for us. The long row of trees on the northern perimeter of the gardens although beautiful, are getting old and will need to be replaced.

Gas Lamp

An elegant Victorian gas lamp donated by the Gas & Fuel Corporation is about to be erected in Cockman Street opposite the entrance to the Gardens. As part of the Management Plan, it had been recommended that this triangle containing 3 Norfolk Island Pines be extended to allow for the growth of these trees and a scoria surface replace the bitumen. Our thanks to the Gas & Fuel Corporation for their generosity and Mr. Bruce Harlock for his help in this matter.

Once again we hope you can join us for the Annual Meeting on the 28th June at 5:30 - drinks and savouries will be served.

Annual Subscriptions

As stated earlier, subscriptions are now due for 1995-96. If you have not already paid within the last two months, would you kindly complete the form and forward your cheque to the address below.

Membership is open to anyone interested in the preservation and promotion of the Gardens, especially important now that the Master Plan has been accepted by the Council and works for the future have to be planned. We do hope you will encourage friends to join.

Marigold Curtis
16.6.95

Book review by Judy Loch

To: Mrs. Kathy Wicherson, Treasurer,
Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens,
22 Dooley Street,
Warrnambool, 3280

(please print)

I, Mr./Mrs/Miss _____

of _____

enclose chq/m.o. for \$ _____ (\$7:00 subscription)

"Penelope Hobhouse on Gardening", by Penelope Hobhouse

Rydalmere, N.S.W. Hodder Headline Australia, 1994

"The art of gardening lies in creating a composition that is truly satisfying". So says Penelope Hobhouse the internationally renowned gardener, writer and garden designer. The author has travelled extensively creating and visiting beautiful gardens. She is the Associate Editor of "Gardens Illustrated" and is a regular contributor to other periodicals. She has lectured widely in Britain, Europe and the U.S.

Using the 1930's garden at Tintinhall, Somerset - where she has worked for the past 14 years - the author sets out her principles of garden design. She makes the point that there never comes a time when all the design possibilities have been tried. And the smaller the scale of the garden the more frequent should be its changes!

The writer admits to preferring framed views to vast panoramas. To this end she introduces us to "mood gardens" or "rooms" using Tintinhall as an example.

Practical gardening skills are imparted clearly in separate chapters on courtyards, pots, shrubs, self-seeding flowers, foliage gardens, gardens in different colours and so on. And there are chapters on specific plants like roses, salvias, clematis, etc.

There is a distinct Northern Hemisphere bias in the book, naturally enough, but most information can be adapted quickly to conform to the Southern Hemisphere's seasonal reversal.

This book is printed on high quality art paper with superb photographs of gardens with close-ups of flowers for identification (botanic names are included alongside common names). The photographs are by Andrew Lawson a leading British photographer.

There is a comprehensive index linked to a hardiness table. There is no bibliography though several books are mentioned in the text.

This book is available from Collins Booksellers, Liebig Street, Warrnambool for \$45. It is a joy to read and would enhance any library.

Judith Loch