

FRIENDS OF THE



WARRNAMBOOL
BOTANIC GARDENS

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NEWSLETTER. AUTUMN, 1996

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President's Report

At the April meeting of the Friends our Secretary was able to announce that the Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens has now become an incorporated body. This fact will give weight to any applications for grants we may make in the future.

Marigold Curtis has been elected our representative on the newly formed Parks & Gardens Advisory Committee of the Warrnambool City Council and we congratulate her on this appointment.

The summer programme of "Music in the Gardens" was a great success with many hundreds of people enjoying the sunshine and the tranquility of the gardens as they listened to music. The Holiday Actors drew the winning ticket of our raffle of a lovely Helen Leitch print on the last day of these concerts. It was won by L. Sketcher of Warrnambool and congratulations go to him.

A picnic dinner was held by East Warrnambool Rotary in the gardens in February. Even though the weather was somewhat inclement the Rotarians were able to enjoy a guided tour of the gardens after their meal. Funds raised by this function are to be donated to the Friends and with them it is planned to purchase a new seat and bin for the gardens.

The visit to the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens by the Australian Garden History Society (Victorian Branch) on their "Guilfoyle in the Western District" tour in March was a great success. The visitors enjoyed guided walks through the gardens on a lovely summer's day. They had a basket lunch provided by the Friends and then a Norfolk Island Pine was planted by Jim Guilfoyle (the grandson of William Guilfoyle) who, together with his wife, had flown from London to join the tour. The group then moved to the reception room at the Municipal Offices where they were joined by local people to hear a series of interesting lectures from Eve Almond, Richard Aitken and John Hawker. An exhibition of archival maps, plans, photos, etc. of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens and the Koroit Botanic Gardens was then opened by Jim Guilfoyle at the Warrnambool Art Gallery and was much appreciated by visitors and Warrnambool residents alike. This exhibition was able to remain on view for a further six weeks, thanks to the Art Gallery staff.

In April Richard Barley, Assistant Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and Trish Vanloon-Benson of the RBGM Planning Department, presented 121 young trees to the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as part of "Flora for Victoria". This is one of the highlights of the 150th year celebration of the establishment of Melbourne's Gardens. The trees were accepted by Warrnambool's Mayor who then made a commemorative planting of an *Agathis robusta* (Queensland Kauri). A plaque was also presented to the Gardens by Richard Barley to note the occasion.

In May Friends have been asked to speak to East Warrnambool Rotary and to the Association for the Blind. These talks are always of interest to us because of the happy memories people have of the early days in the gardens, for example the maze, swings and aviary. The Association for the Blind have asked us to help them with their perfumed garden. In connection with early days in the gardens would any of you who have photos of the plantings at the entrance, or remember the flower beds there, please contact us? We are planning to restore this area and would appreciate any ideas you could give us. (Please ring Ellen Dwyer on 62-7539)

Annual General Meeting - The A.G.M. of the Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens will take place on Wednesday, 17th July, at the Tourist Information Centre, Raglan Parade, Warrnambool, at 7:30 pm. All positions on the committee will fall vacant at that time and we do urge you to consider standing for the committee and taking part in the conservation and development of our lovely gardens. Positions to be filled include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and six Committee Members. Nominations for the committee must be in writing, signed by two members of the Friends and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate. They must be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. Dawn Smith, P.O. Box 1190, Warrnambool, 3280, 7 days before the day of the A.G.M. We plan to have a speaker on "Birds of the Botanic Gardens" which should be interesting. Hope to see you there.

Judith Loch

Annual Subscriptions - We would appreciate it if you could let us have your subscription of \$7.00 for the 1996/7 year at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 17th July. If you are not able to attend this meeting would you please complete the form below and forward your cheque to Kathy? Membership is open to anyone interested in the preservation of our fine gardens and especially important now that the "Flora for Victoria" programme is underway.

Marigold Curtis
editor
15.5.96

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)