



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

NEWSLETTER. SPRING, 1998



Annual Luncheon

Andrew Lawson spoke to a rapt audience on September 16 on his favourite subject "Colour in the Garden" - its harmonies, contrasts and effects, all vital aspects of good garden design. He showed us his huge collection of slides of gardens famous for their structural form and design. As part of the Garden Lecture Series the Friends were lucky to be the first of 24 lectures to be held in this country. Many of you who attended will agree it was a most inspiring day and congratulations go to the hardworking committee who organised the function under the guidance of Anne Kelly and Lorraine Richardson.

Marie Ziebell was able to show Andrew through our own Gardens during the lunch break and also managed a quick view of the sea - having flown in from England the day before he had no idea he was close to the ocean! He was most impressed with the Gardens, especially the old Moreton Bay Fig trees and marvelled at their size and age.

Conference Committee

A lot of planning has taken place for the Annual Conference next April. However we still have a long way to go and any help you can give us in any of the following areas would be appreciated.

The Friends will be responsible for the conference registration on Friday, April 16 when we will hold a reception. There will be guided tours of the WBG and catering to be organised for Sunday, April 18.

Identification & Labelling of Trees

This is another one of our responsibilities and has to be undertaken now. We have made a start on identifying and listing the trees and will be seeking expert advice in this area. Later a labelling program will begin, using the many labels made for the Gardens in the past. It will take a great deal of time and research as each tree has to be located on the master plan and properly identified. Growing Friends have been actively involved in this major program.

Patron

As announced at our AGM, the Hon. Richard McGarvie has graciously agreed to be our Patron. We are delighted to learn that he will be coming down in April and will officially open the conference.

Rotunda

Renovations are underway after much delay. Tiles are to be cleaned, gutters replaced and ceiling repaired, and then painting can begin.

Fernery

Maintenance work will begin shortly before painting can commence. We will then have to attend to replanting the ferns, selecting additional new ones and labelling.

"Growing Friends"

As you know this small group meet fortnightly (1st & 3rd Mondays, 10 - 12) in the gardens. They are currently involved in planting out espaliered fruit trees, re-potting Flora for Victoria trees and exposing the original stone walls and paths. Please ring Lorraine Richardson on 5565-1217 a.h. if you can give us some potted plants or help in gardening. They have designed a lovely gardening apron with our emblem on the front and these are for sale to Friends.

URGENT

HELP IS NEEDED BY MEMBERS (NOT ONLY THE COMMITTEE) TO ACHIEVE THE WORK ABOVE MENTIONED DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS IF WE ARE TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE AND HAVE THE GARDENS PRESENTED AS A BOTANIC GARDEN.

Over 100 delegates from other botanic gardens will be attending our conference and the work of the Friends will be on display.

Marigold Curtis

23.9.98

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