



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.

A0032902E



Issue No. 27

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2002

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another 3 months has rapidly passed. I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. The Christmas party in the newly refurbished rotunda was a great success, in spite of the very cold weather. Summer this year seems to have avoided all our functions.

Thank you all so much for the assistance we received during the outstandingly successful Federation Fair. We believe in excess of 3,000 people attended, but it is very difficult to estimate numbers in a moving group. It was wonderful to see the vast number of participating community organisations and charities, as this fulfilled our prime objective. In addition, the beautiful gardens were well advertised. The Fair was not funded as a profit making undertaking, but as a means of involving the community in the celebration of Federation, permitting the general public to have an outing with no admission charges. As such it was most successful. To date our accounts are not completely finalised but it is probable that there will be a small shortfall to be met by the Friends.

Several of the Committee members kindly made themselves available to conduct a Quality Survey for the Council, at the Spirit of the Sea Festival \$300.00 was raised for the Friends.

We participated in the Wunta Festival, Jazz in the Gardens, by providing a Devonshire Tea, raising approximately \$300.00.

We are planning a Teddy Bears' Picnic, in conjunction with 3YB, for April 28th which should attract another different section of the community to the Gardens.

The Guiding Group has been very active with fortnightly walks and also escorting children's groups through the gardens. The Growing Friends continue with their propagation and potting. A Plant Sale was held on March 16th where a very interesting array of plants was available.

My thanks to all committee personnel and members for their continued support and enthusiasm.

Billie Rowley
President

THE 3YB FRESHA TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

On Sunday 28th April 1–4pm the Friends, 3YB and Fresha will be holding this event in the gardens. Entry to the gardens will be free with \$2 to enter your Teddy in the many categories of competition, there will be some special Teddies but all will obtain a prize. Along with our main attraction of Humphrey B Bear, there will be Goldilocks & The Three Bears, Teddy Bears Picnic song, talking with the Bears, magician and balloon twisting, lolly scramble, games and face painting, Conn's Homemade Cakes will supply a large cake with candles to be blown out by two senior citizens from Lyndoc, devonshire tea for the parents and Teddy Bear crumpets, Teddy Bear Biscuits, fairy bread, pancakes, jam donuts and much more. We will be giving more information later but in the meantime

listen to 3YB

News Around the Gardens

The **Growing Friends** held a very successful plant stall on Saturday 16 March when potted plants carefully raised over the spring and summer months had been prepared. These included plants originally grown for Federation Fair now well established, plants for hedging and perennial borders, and a variety of bulbs. \$315 was raised and because of the interest shown the Growing Friends plan to have a plant sale every spring and autumn, including plants raised from shrubs growing in the gardens.

The **Guiding Friends** continue to show people through the gardens on a regular basis, a most enjoyable task at this time of year because of the bold summer flowers and colourful ribbon planting.

A very special educational walk was held in February for 40 YMCA holiday program children. Pat Varley organised the day and we took the children through the gardens dividing them into groups to look at palms, oaks, eucalypts, bamboos and conifers. Games were held such as measuring the girth of the oldest Monterey Cypress and the height of the tallest Washingtonia Palm now known as the "Sky Duster"! Gumnuts, acorns, bamboo and olives were all shared around with much interest and pleasure. Another walk is being organised for these coming holidays.

Lagunaria patersonii - Norfolk Island Hibiscus or Pyramid Tree

By the main entrance gate stands this very fine Norfolk Island Hibiscus. It has been in full bloom all summer long and is a familiar sight to us as it can be found planted down many streets of Warrnambool and other coastal areas. Its blossom of rose pink beautifully complement the silvery grey-green of its leaves. Later its fruit will reveal seed pods, lined with a mat of sharp fine hairs, irritating to the skin - as many a school boy will know! Also known as the Cow Itch Tree for the same reason. It is native to Queensland, New South Wales and Norfolk Island and belongs to the Mallow family, including Hibiscus Abuliton. This tree is also known as the Pyramid Tree because of its fine shape.

Marigold Curtis

Federation Fair

"The Friends" are very proud of the way this day presented itself. Warrnambool experienced one of the worst Saturday nights of the year so much rain that the lawns were a river and the tent roofs had to be emptied of water for fear that they would split. Sunday was blowing gales and we experienced occasional showers but an estimated 3,000 people of Warrnambool were not deterred and on arrival found a surprisingly protected venue. Forty tents were filled with volunteer groups who were given the opportunity to showcase their clubs to the public and network with other like-minded groups. These were supported by schools and clubs selling a variety of food and goods, and entertaining children and adults. Other groups entertained us on the stage with song and dance. By all accounts those who attended found something new that they were not aware occurred in Warrnambool and were given insight into these hard working groups who otherwise are too small to gain exposure. The garden staff are to be commended for the magnificently presented gardens - they were a picture to behold. Cont page 4

COMING EVENTS

Guided Walks in the Gardens: every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 2.30pm

These walks are proving to be very popular as more people are wanting to learn about the history and creation of our beautiful gardens.

12th April – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

Cole's Coaches are taking a coach and are offering a special rate to all members of the Friends of \$60. Contact Mandy King 5562 0343 or Cole's Coaches on 5562 0055 and confirmed that you are a member. Itinerary: Depart 7am W'bool Tourist Info Centre, 7.30am Terang P.O, 7.50am Camperdown P.O. Arr. Geelong morning tea, 11am Exhibition Centre, 5pm Dep. Melbourne, 6pm Geelong dinner, arrive Warrnambool 9.30am

28th April – 1 – 4pm Teddy Bears Picnic with Humphrey B Bear

September Bus trip to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens to meet with the Friends of the RBG, M

A SNIPPET FROM HISTORY

From the archives

October, 1895

“It has often been remarked that the townspeople do not sufficiently appreciate the beauties of the gardens and parks in their midst, and perhaps there is some ground for the assertion. In any case they should not fail to pay a visit to the botanical gardens, as they will be amply repaid for their trouble. The enclosure, which is under the control of Mr Scoborio, presents a charming scene at present, as many of the plants and shrubs are now in bloom, and improvements recently effected add much to the beauty of the surroundings. The ex-Mayor, Mr J. Ward, has set an example which is worthy of emulation by presenting three handsome vases to the gardens. These stand about 7 feet in height, and are alike handsome and substantial, and make splendid adornments for the gardens. The vases have been placed in position near the main entrance, and probably other citizens will also give works of art for beautifying this well-kept park. The efforts now being made to fill “the lakes” with water will probably be successful. For some years the excavations made for this purpose have interfered with the appearance of the gardens, as the water would not remain there, but ran away through the porous soil. The town surveyor, Mr Ross, is making experiments, and it is likely that the lake will shortly be filled with water.”

The Friends of today have been addressing the restoration of the two urns that remain as they are deteriorating with age, if you have any knowledge of the third urn please contact us.

As you are aware we are always after snippets of history of the gardens, either events, structural changes or personal experiences. If you would like to share these with other members and feel it would be of interest for our archives please contact a member of the Committee. You could send hard copy or disk to the Friends address or email Mandy King at amandaking@datafast.net.au. Your contributions will be added to our growing database for those that follow us, or be used to assist the Friends in their endeavours.

**FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL
BOTANIC GARDENS INC.**

A0032902E

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Our newsletter is published spring, summer, autumn and winter. If you would like to contribute to our publication please forward material to the above address.

Published by:

Marigold Curtis Mandy King

27 March 2002

Federation Fair, cont.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that assisted on the day and in the lead up. Without a lot of support days like this would be impossible.

Anne Kelly would like to especially to thank those who spent many hours in the kitchen whipping up delicious slices and cakes that the "Friends" have now gained a reputation for and assisting on the day with whipping cream and preparing scones for the Devonshire tea. The ladies that were presenting all this hard work, the tent looked a picture with flowers on the table giving a friendly and homely feel.

Lorraine would also like to thank those who helped in the Growing Friends area beforehand, both through donations and help with potting up the many plants and cuttings, then on the day with selling and giving invaluable information on planting and gardening to the public who needed assistance.

Marie Johnstone would also like to take this opportunity to thank the ladies who produced a variety produce making this a very popular stall.

In all the Friends made around \$3,000 which will go towards restoration projects and the planned Children's Garden.

The important thing that was gained from the day was the comradeship and satisfaction of all working together for the good of others.

Mandy King

**A brief explanation of the proposed
Children's Garden.**

While Marie Ziebell was president she put forward the possibility of a Children's Garden that would incorporate native plantings with a maze type layout, an interactive educational concept incorporating plants that children can smell and touch, with Snugglepots and Cuddlepies depicted in wood carvings.

A revised master plan is in progress for the gardens and if all goes well the Children's Garden will be included.