



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.

A 0032902E



Issue No. 33

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Friends have had a very busy but productive summer. Our activities commenced with Wunta in the Gardens. The day was unbelievably hot and our Devonshire teas were not really appreciated. It was interesting to note that even the beer stall was short of patrons!!!

Our next function was the Teddy Bears' Picnic which was most successful. This is the third year that it has been held and it continues to be very well attended. As in the past it was run in conjunction with SYB, who were extremely helpful. Humphrey Bear was the star attraction, but the major part of the entertainment was provided by local artists and groups as a donation. We received a grant of \$3000 from the Council's Community Grants Program, Warrnambool business houses donated prizes for the 22 categories of Bears, and the members of the Friends were most supportive. I would like to thank Anne and Marie, who with me, were members of the organising committee and worked very hard to ensure the success of the day.

It has been requested that the event be entered in the Community Radio Awards program. A submission has been dispatched so we are awaiting the result with interest.

It was interesting to note that the main objective of a cost free day for families was achieved as demonstrated by an attendance of approximately 3000, but an entry number of only 720 bears.

In early May Pat Varley organised a morning of play for pre school children. The games and entertainment were organised by TAFE students who introduced us to some most innovative, educational and fun ways of entertaining children. Both the mothers and the helpers had a very enjoyable morning. Coffee and biscuits were served.

The Master Plan has at last arrived in draft form. Following a meeting with the steering committee the plan will be available to members for comment. It will appear on the Council Botanic Gardens web site and in hard copy in the Council offices. I do hope as many of you as possible make comment as the future planning of the Gardens is of paramount importance to their future.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on July 20 and I trust as many of you as possible will attend.

My best wishes to all members and safe travelling to those who are planning a winter holiday.

Billie Rowley

Games in the Gardens

Games in the gardens was arranged by the "Friends" in cooperation with Diploma of Children's Services students from TAFE. The target group was toddlers and tiny tots together with their carers. The event was most successful in catering for the very young.

It was held between 10.30 and 12 noon on Tuesday morning 27th April.

There were numerous activities including story telling, face painting, creative art and music making, parachute play, and just revelling in the Autumn leaves. The weather was mild, the sun shone and the whole scene was one of relaxed, supervised play. Special attractions were feeding the ducks and picking and eating apples from the cottage garden. While the "littlies" drank considerable amounts of water from the dispenser supplied by South West Water, the "Big people" enjoyed tea, coffee and scones provided by the "Friends".

Altogether about 100 people gathered on the lawns as once again the Gardens provided a delightful venue for fun, and friendship.

Thanks to all who helped.

SYB, The Standard and St Josephs for publicity.

South West Water

Donna and the students from TAFE

Anne and all who helped with the catering

Marigold for the apples

Lorraine and Stan for having the area so well groomed

Mandy for the photographs.

And especially the mums, dads and carers and their wonderful children

Pat Varley

KEEP THIS DAY FREE

The Friends are planning a conference for Saturday 9th October. John Arnott, Curator of the Geelong Botanic gardens has accepted an invitation to be our key note speaker. The conference will be held at St. Josephs Primary School, next to the Gardens and will run from 10.00 till 4.00. We hope to attract interested people from across South West Victoria and to strengthen our links and enhance our knowledge. There will be lots of opportunities for discussion, tea and talk. Do come.

Contact Pat Varley or Amanda King for more information

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2004

AGM: Tuesday 20th July

Annual plant stall: Saturday 2nd October 11.30am—2.30pm at the growers
area in the gardens

Mini Conference: Saturday 9th October

Guided walks in the Gardens Sundays 2.30 pm as listed

June 27 July 11 & 25 August 8 & 22 September 12 & 26

Remember, if you would like to organise a group 'tour of the gardens', maybe for your family or business, please contact Isobel Jones or another committee person most times can be accommodated.

THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

As we go to print it has just been announced that the Australian exhibition on show in London has won the Silver-Gilt Flora Award at this, the world's most prestigious flower show. Its guiding philosophy is an "Australian Style" and features exotic and native plants, including grevilleas, callistemons, euphorbias, festucas.

The garden's designer, Jim Fogarty, says that even with the use of non-Australian natives the team is "still playing with the colours of the bush – blues, silvers and burgundies feature heavily". There are red and orange cannas, purple flax and other strong-coloured plants used extensively – all familiar to us in our gardens.

The team's director, Wes Fleming of Fleming's Nurseries in Monbulk was ecstatic with the win. His brother, whom I spoke to this morning, said that the Nurseries had been established by their father in 1930. Everyone agrees that the award will do a lot for horticulture in Australia.

Marigold Curtis

WEB SITE

People interested in Botanic Gardens and or Gardening now have the opportunity to join a web group that allows people to shared BG information, this site is safe and does not attract virus or spam, to date we have 46 members, most major gardens are represented. If you would like to join please 'go to' groups.yahoo.com/group/botanic_gardens follow the prompts to join or email myself at amandaking@datafast.net.au I would be happy to answer any questions or supply further information about the group.

Below are some interesting sites to have a look at:

Adelaide Botanic Gardens The Botanic Gardens of Adelaide is comprised of three botanic gardens. Over 1.5 million people visit these gardens each year. <http://www.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/>

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens The Association has many members from around Australia and building, contact to add your Gardens to this group <http://http.www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/>

Australian National Botanic Gardens The Gardens are in Canberra. The site includes botanical databases, Australian plants, Indigenous plant, weather knowledge and much more <http://www.anbg.gov.au/anbg/>

Botanic Gardens Conservation International The Gateway to the World's Botanic Gardens. This site is well worth a look. 145 botanic gardens and network organisations in 61 countries have signed up to the International Agenda for botanic Gardens in conservation. <http://www.bgci.org.uk/>

Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens Directors of the Australian capital-city botanic gardens. Seeking to enhance the status of botanic and public gardens for the benefit of the Australian community. Interesting newsletters and project information <http://www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/>

Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne An extensive web site with links to detailed information on their many projects <http://www.rbg.vic.gov.au>

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew UK Informative, lovely pictures <http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/>

IN THE GARDENS

Paths : The main path has been re surfaced and looks very good

Rotunda: We now have a built in cupboard to store large items and the open shelves have lock up doors.

Master plan: Is in the process of being reviewed

**FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL
BOTANIC GARDENS INC.**
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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.

June 2004

The **Guiding Friends** have been busy as usual showing people through the gardens. In the summer months it appears that there are more people picnicking and returning to the gardens for family gatherings than ever before.

Apart from the usual visitors, Isobel Jones had been asked to show through a group of 60 Rotarians from the Melbourne district. We were fortunate in having lovely sunny weather and the trees looked superb in their autumn colours. The Friends served a delicious morning tea from the rotunda following the walks. Many remarked on how beautifully maintained the gardens are but showed concern over future funding, the poor condition of the lakes now almost choked with waterlilies and water restrictions that we are likely to face in the future.

The **Growing Friends** have been giving away heaps of apples and pears successfully grown as a result of careful mulching by them and controlled irrigating during the summer. One group shown through the orchard recently were preschool-childcare students. Some of the children were able to pick ripe apples straight from the trees, much to their delight.

We are organising a plant sale to be held on Saturday, October 2nd, so please pot up plants for this day. Perennials, small plants – all will be welcome. Please ring Lorraine, Judi or Marigold if you need any compost, potting mix or pots. We will arrange a potting day in early August, the date to be announced at the AGM in July.

VALE Nance McWhinney

One of our oldest and most loyal supporters, Nance McWhinney died recently in her 98th year. She was brought up on a farm near Camperdown and had a happy childhood going to school with her brothers by horse and buggy. As a small girl she was taken often to the Gardens to hear the bands play. She once told me that while playing in the maze she became lost and frightened, crawling out under the Virginia Creeper hedge. Nance spent most of her adult life in South Australia but returned to Warrnambool to be close to relatives and her many friends. To the end she maintained a lively interest in all around her and was a great supporter of the Friends' many activities. She will be fondly remembered by all who knew her. We send our condolences to Wendy and family
Marigold Curtis