



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

A0032902E



Issue No. 34

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2004

A Message from the President

Members will know that at the annual general meeting in July, Billie Rowley, having completed her three year term as president, stood down from that role. Billie made a very significant contribution to the work of the Friends. Her ability to attract community events and to gain the necessary grants to support them was outstanding. She has agreed to accept the role of Vice President and as in coming President I look forward to her advice and support. All other members of the Committee have accepted re-nomination and we are planning a varied program for the year ahead.

The Friends have defined their purpose as simply “to maintain and develop Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden”. In working towards this end they hope to maintain strong links with Warrnambool City Council, further develop links with other gardening groups, facilitate greater use of the Gardens by the community, consolidate and strengthen membership, and disseminate information about the Gardens. To achieve this we need ideas and support from all our members, so please contact a committee member with your suggestions and opinions.

The Botanic Gardens Management Plan is taking much longer to complete than was intended and the third draft is now in the process of revision. As this will be the blue print for future maintenance and development it is a significant document.

Marie Johnstone our historian, is continuing her research towards the stabilising and restoring of the three urns which are now over 100 years old and need some tender loving care. Marigold Curtis has strengthened our links with the Royal Botanic Gardens and they have made a significant donation of plants to our gardens. Thank you Marie and Marigold.

I hope all members will support our film night on September Thursday 16th and our conference on Saturday October 9th. Come along and bring a friend. We need you.

Pat Varley
September 2004

MAIN PROJECTS FOR 2004 – 2005

Completion of revised 'Management Plan'. At the completion of this document, many works that have been on hold will be able to be put into motion. The final draft will be displayed for public comment in the near future and a report will be included in the next newsletter.

Restoration of the three urns: This project has been in the pipe line for some years and after very thorough and diligent research by Marie Johnstone we are now under way.

Mini Conference: A flyer has been included for your information along with details of the day. We do hope that you will be able to attend this very well structured and informative day.

Annual Plant Sale: 13th November 11.30am – 2.30pm. This day will be held in the 'Growing Area' of the gardens on Cockman Street. As usual there will be a wide variety of high quality plants. Don't miss this day, a chance for some pre-Christmas shopping.

THE GROWING FRIENDS arranged a successful potting day for all to bring in their cuttings, perennials and small plants in preparation for the Annual Plant Sale to be held on Saturday, November 13. Pruning has started on the beautiful fruit trees now well established which gave us such bumper crops earlier in the year.

THE GUIDING FRIENDS have been showing people through the gardens as usual but in much smaller numbers due to the cold and wet winter we have been having. The Friends are currently redesigning the coloured brochure distributed to motels and handed out to visitors, a very useful tool showing the layout of the gardens and significant trees, their history and importance.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2004

Film Night: Thursday 16th September 'Touching the Void' – with the help of Central Warrnambool Rotary Club

Mini Conference: Saturday 9th October 2004

Annual plant sale: Saturday 13th November 2004 11.30am—2.30pm at the growers area in the gardens

Benalla Botanica: 23-24 October Conference 'Planting for your environment'

Geelong Botanical Illustrators Exhibition: 18Sep-20Oct Eagle Gallery, Airies Inlet

RBG Cranbourne New Aust Plants Garden: Opens 27th Sep.

Guided walks in the Gardens Sundays 2.30 pm as listed

Sep 12 & 26, Oct10 & 24 Nov 14 & 28 Dec 12

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 Botanic Gardens Report Book

For the sixty years from 1898 to 1958 we have a fantastic source of information in the Botanic gardens Report Book. Each of the Curators, Scoborio, Donald and Leitch, regularly reported to Council on the state of the town's street trees and gardens. Their reports, carefully hand written in the formal style of the times, tell the story of their triumphs and disappointments. Scoborio reported to Council four times a year. His report as transcribed, follows.

Warrnambool February 7th 1898

To His Worship the Mayor
and Town Councillors.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present a report on the condition of the Gardens and plantations under my care. At the present time, which is not of the brightest, the long drought and excessive heat have been very disastrous to all plant life. I never recollect such dry weather as have been experienced the last two years. It is with the greatest difficulty to keep the plants and shrubs alive. With regard to spring and summer flowers such as Annuals and other tender plants, they were completely burnt out of the ground. Other plants that were more hardy I have managed to keep alive by continued watering. I have lost many plants and shrubs, and I fear I shall lose many more if it does not rain very soon. There are many large shrubs such as Buddleia Veronicas, and Pittosporums and others that are out of reach of the water services. I have to cart water to them. Altogether the outlook at present is not very encouraging. I fear I shall have to ask you for assistance to replace what is lost, especially in flower seeds. It has been impossible to save seeds as the flowers were burnt up before they were half open. I have a small stock of some seeds in the nursery but not nearly sufficient nor yet the varieties that are required.

The established trees in the streets are doing fairly well, with a few failures. The newly planted trees, through keeping them well mulched and watered are doing better than I expected. There are about a dozen failures, principally Norfolk Island pines. I think I have sufficient to make good any failures.

The Gardens generally you will find in good order. The birds of all descriptions are doing well, which is a great attraction to the Gardens. I have been able to preserve a very fair display of flowers, which were greatly appreciated by visitors of which there have been a great number.

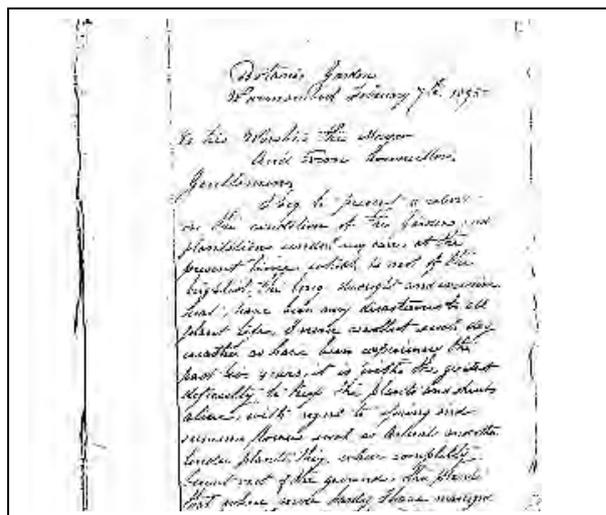
I am Gentlemen

Your Obedient servant

Chas. Scoborio

Curator

Extract from Scoborio's Report, Feb 1898, shown at left



In later reports Scoborio wrote:-
'...in Raglan Parade 14 of the trees had the leading shoots broken off by some mischievous persons...'
He also spoke of horses and cows being allowed to wander in the streets and '...persons attending the Saleyards tying their horses to the trees, it's a great nuisance...'

Bats and birds seem quite insignificant in comparison.

P.V.

**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.

September 2004

**FRIENDS OF THE WARRNAMBOOL
BOTANIC GARDENS**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS HELD

AS AT 30TH JUNE 2004

	2004	2003
	\$	\$
General Bank Account	4,425.88	8,336.44
Term Deposit	18,287.15	11,363.49
Total Funds held as at 30 th June, 2004	22,713.03	19,699.93

BRIEF SUMMARY OF EVENTS 2003-04

- Morning Coffee movie "Green Fingers"
- Planting of a memorial tree to commemorate the early Curators, Charles Scoborio & William Donald.
- A car trip to Glenormiston College House and Gardens and Gnotuk House.
- Christmas Party.
- Wunta, Jazz in the Gardens.
- Teddy Bears' Picnic – 3YB & Golly Gosh
- Pre School children's games morning organised by T.A.F.E students.
- Rotarians Caravan group guided walks and morning tea

MEMBERSHIP

By remaining a Member of the Friends you continue to demonstrate your support for our Gardens. The Friends have been operating for over 10 years. With your membership we are able to continue providing financial and practical assistance to the Botanic Gardens and the WCC. Your membership also enables us to demonstrate the local interest in maintaining the status of the Gardens, which helps in our endeavours to gain financial and Government support.

Many of you have been members from the beginning and we thank you for that. We have taken the liberty to include a membership form for distribution should you know anyone who would be interested in joining.