



# FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

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Maintaining and developing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden

Issue No. 70

Autumn 2014

## NEWSLETTER [www.wbgardens.com.au](http://www.wbgardens.com.au)

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### HONOURING OUR LIVING GALLIPOLI LINK

The headline above was how The Standard newspaper (22/1/14) reported on a commemorative ceremony held the previous day to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of Warrnambool's Lone Pine. When it was dedicated to the AIF in 1934 it was a rather weedy specimen of *Pinus Brutia* about a metre high. Today it is a weathered old survivor.

The low key ceremony attended by about 100 guests was organised by The Friends at short notice. David McGinness, Warrnambool RSL Memorabilia Officer, had been alerted to the date by Lindsay McDowell grandson of Sergeant Keith McDowell, the soldier who brought home a pine cone he collected from the battle ground at Lone Pine.

Lindsay McDowell attended the ceremony, as did Jean Giblett and Alan Gray whose grandmother Mrs Emma Gray, had grown the tree.

Back in 1934 the papers ran lengthy and detailed accounts of community events so we had a very good description of the dedication of "our" tree. The original ceremony was arranged by the Returned Soldiers Association in conjunction with the Progress Association as part of the Back to Warrnambool celebrations. We had been told that Ron Jessen, then a Scout, took part in the ceremony. Hence it was a double pleasure to have his son Graeme attend the anniversary as President of Legacy, an organisation that has done more than any other to keep alive the Lone Pine story.



The Friends' Vice President Janet Macdonald spoke on the Lone Pine Memorial today, reflecting on a visit she and President Pat Varley had made to Gallipoli the previous year. This was of particular interest to a group preparing for a visit to Gallipoli this coming April.

The event was rounded off with tea and ANZAC biscuits served from the rotunda.

The story of the Lone Pine impressed local federal MP Dan Tehan who said he planned to mention it in an address to parliament.

The Friends have made application to the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants program for funding for improved signage and irrigation around the tree and for harvesting and propagation of seed. Both Legacy and the RSL have offered support, so our living link should live on to the centenary of Gallipoli and beyond.

A detailed story of the Lone Pine is included in this newsletter. This was distributed to those attending the ceremony. The Friends also recognise the contribution of Garden's staff over 80 years or more, to the health of Warrnambool's Lone Pine

## **LAGUNARIA PATERSONII - Norfolk Island Hibiscus**

By the main entrance gate stands a 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 hibiscus-like flowers are rose-pink and beautifully complement the grey-green of its leaves.

Later it's fruit will reveal seed pods, lined with a mat of sharp fine hairs, irritating to the skin - as many a school boy knows! - also know 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. It has been know to grow to great heights which is a concern to those people who live along the streets in Warrnambool where they have been planted, as they scatter their flowers and seed pods far and wide.



*Marigold Curtis*

## **WBG Team Update March 2014**

Thankfully we have survived another summer.

Despite a great start to the end of the year the subsequent months have been very dry and hot!

Work within WBG over the last few months has included:

- Dragging hoses, dragging hoses and surprisingly dragging hoses for watering.
- Planting of Gunnera's in bed 17 that were kindly donated by the team at Ripponlea.
- Mulching of feature trees, including the Lone Pine.
- Planting of new Spring flowering bulbs.
- Turf works to introduce more warm season grass that requires less water and is more wear tolerant than the existing cool season grass.
- Extension of the bore line to create a new watering point where the old poison shed was located.
- Continued plantings within shrub beds.
- Cutting back within shrub beds.
- Installation of new pump for fountain.
- Mulching and planting of new garden area surrounding the Curator's cottage.

We look forward to enjoying cooler starts during Autumn and hopefully some rain.

Please if you are visiting WBG during working hours feel free to grab a team member and discuss the recent developments within the gardens.



Growing within our display gardens are Gourds, of various shapes and sizes. These gourds will be harvested soon and placed in storage for drying. We are hoping to sell a few of these dried gourds during the FOWBG Spring garden day later in the year



Flowering near the fernery is the Blood Flower (*Haemanthus coccineus*). This South African bulb flowers between February and April. After flowering two large leaves emerge per bulb. Imagine a mass planting of this bulb!

*John for WBG team*

## **TWO GUILFOYLE GARDENS - MOOLERIC AND TURKEITH**

Camperdown Botanic Gardens are having a bus trip to Mooleric and Turkeith on Wednesday 30 April. It would be a good day out for members. They're both lovely gardens and you are assured to be inspired. Click on the links to see the [invitation](#) Tickets \$25. Enquiries to Janet O'Hehir on 0427 629 557 or [maclura@bigpond.com](mailto:maclura@bigpond.com)

## **70<sup>th</sup> EDITION**

Marigold Curtis one of our inaugural committee members was also our inaugural newsletter editor. Her first edition was posted in July 1992.

Some excerpts from that first edition. This is our first official newsletter to you. We hope you will find it informative and that it will help stimulate your interest in remaining an active friends of the Warrnambool Gardens

The inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Warrnambool Gardens was held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1992 at the Tourist Information Centre.

Mrs. Ellen Dwyer welcomed the Mayor, Cr. David Atkinson and his wife, members and guests to the meeting.

Mrs. Dwyer, as President of the original Steering Committee formed in 1989, submitted her president's report: It is interesting to look back and realise that over the past 22years the Friends have covered many of the initial ambitions. Part of Ellen's president report says, Apart from employing a qualified Arborist, I see our most pressing requirement being an overall planting

scheme for the Gardens. We need someone with specialist knowledge and skill to provide us with a detailed plan of trees, shrubs and plants that would fill out and enhance the present shrubberies and garden beds. Ours is a Guilfoyle Garden and it is most important that his original concept be maintained and enhanced rather than altered.

To read the full transcript of this first edition and all from then to now, go to [our web](#) site and scroll to the bottom of the list

## **DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

A recent addition to our book collection is *Victoria's Gun and Cannon* by Bill Billet. This little gem has a photo of the Gun in the Gardens on the front cover. The photo shows a family group and judging by the fashions of the day was probably taken in the 1920s. Thanks to Mary Mahoney for this donation.

## **GRANTS**

A range of grants and funding opportunities are available for heritage places, but applications are time consuming and conditions quite stringent, frequently involving co-contributions.

Over the past year The Friends were successful in gaining two grants, each of \$3,000; one from the Community Development Fund WCC, and the other a State Local History Grant.

We are currently waiting on the outcome of two further applications.

We are confident that our application to the Federal Government's ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program for the preservation and propagation of the Lone Pine will be at least partially funded. The Warrnambool branch of the RSL and of Legacy have also offered support.

We have also submitted a proposal to Heritage Victoria Restoration Fund HVERF for the restoration of the well and windmill. The history of this significant era when the Gardens depended on water from a 50foot well is thoroughly documented. Restoration is an ambitious project, but then so was the restoration of the carriage for the Cannon. With the support of our community we believe any thing is possible.

## **JEWEL OF REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS**

Donna Ellis and Jeremy Lee from ABC Local Radio are touring regional Botanic Gardens and speaking on the value of Botanic Gardens. They have started with Warrnambool and conduct a very interesting and valued interview with John Sheely our Curator.

Donna is a member of a number of organisations and networks, including Sustainable Gardening Australia, the Australian Garden History Society and the Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. She is a past president of the Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens and was a founding committee member of Encouraging Women in Horticulture Australia. And written Sustainable Gardening for Dummies

Donna Ellis describes the Warrnambool gardens as showing off 'beautiful vast open spaces and trees as specimens ... you're not going to get a tree that big in your front yard'.

Scroll down, have a look at the pictures and play the recording

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2014/01/22/3929945.htm>

## **The Lone Pine, Warrnambool Botanic Gardens – 80 years.**

The story of the Lone Pine (*Pinus Brutia*) that grows in Warrnambool Botanic Gardens has become a legend, and like all legends, it has developed different versions with repeated tellings. This version is fully documented.

The Battle of Lone Pine was fought from August 6-10, 1915, on a heavily fortified plateau of the Gallipoli Peninsula, upon which stood a solitary pine tree. Intended to create a diversion for a British landing in Suvla Bay, the battle left between five and six thousand Turkish and 2,277 Australian soldiers dead. From September the Australian 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Battalions defended the ridge, alternating every two days. From the ruins of battle, Sergeant Keith McDowell picked up a pine cone from where the tree had once stood and carried it back home to Australia.

Thomas Keith McDowell was born in London and enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in Wonthaggi, Victoria on 14 January, 1915. The twenty-five year old Private was appointed to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion and embarked from Melbourne on the *Euripedes* on 10 May, 1915. After seventeen weeks at Gallipoli he served in France before being evacuated to England suffering from tuberculosis and renal colic. On his return to Australia in September 1916 he enlisted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Military District Guard, obtaining the rank of Sergeant before a tuberculosis relapse saw him discharged as permanently unfit. He collected three service medals – 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

On his return McDowell gave the pine cone to Mrs Emma Gray, the aunt of McDowell's wife Iris. Born in Tower Hill in 1870, Emma Gray ran a general store in Grasmere with her husband Robert. After twelve years Emma successfully grew four young pine trees from the seeds of the cone. One seedling was dedicated in Burwood's Wattle Park, home ground of the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion, on 7 May, 1933. A second was dedicated to the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on 11 June, 1933. The third was planted at The Sisters Memorial Hall on 18 June, 1933, near a block owned by Emma's son Vern. The fourth was planted in Warrnambool's Botanic Gardens, with a dedication service on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 1934.

The pines in Warrnambool, Wattle Park and The Sisters still stand. The Shrine of Remembrance's Lone Pine was removed on 15 August 2012 after failed efforts to save it from a fungal infection, *Diplodia pinea*. A replacement pine had been propagated and was planted nearby in 2006.

A mature tree grown from the Warrnambool pine stands at Ballangeich on a soldier settlement block where it was propagated by returned serviceman Alan Strain. Trees raised by Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens now grow in Toll Bar Park, Lexton, Port Fairy Consolidated School as well as other locations in and around Warrnambool.

Another Australian soldier, Lance Corporal Benjamin Smith, sent a pine cone home to his mother in NSW and two trees were cultivated, one planted in Inverell and the other at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in 1934.

Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens [www.wbgardens.com.au](http://www.wbgardens.com.au) [friends@wbgardens.com.au](mailto:friends@wbgardens.com.au)  
Research by Marie Johnstone and Pat Varley with assistance of the Warrnambool Family History Group, and Edna Shaw, whose research into the Lone Pine at Wattle Park provided the catalyst for our renewed inquiries. January 2013.

## 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.

Membership: Payable at/or by the AGM  
July 2014

## GUIDED WALKS

Guided walks are conducted by our volunteer  
guides every Second and Fourth Sunday  
of the month commencing at 2.30pm,  
weather permitting

Walks can be organised on request

Walks proceed from the main entrance gate  
in Cockman Street

Please note: If you would like to have  
your Newsletter sent by email please  
send an email to [friends@wbgardens.com.au](mailto:friends@wbgardens.com.au)  
and we will put you on the email list

## Gardens of Glenlyon

Glen and Lisa are passionate about traditional crafts and  
have created Lost Trades Australia, an initiative to support  
age old skills and to bring together people who have these  
age old skills

[gardensofglenlyon.blogspot.com.au](http://gardensofglenlyon.blogspot.com.au)

## MORNING IN THE GARDENS

Join us in Scoborio's shed at 11.00am first Wednesday of the  
month.

## AGM

Our AGM will take place at the TAFE building Timor St at  
12noon on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014. More information in our following  
news letter

## SEATS IN THE GARDENS

Repainting of the garden seats is progressing steadily and  
we are most grateful to Rotary for taking on this project.

## FACEBOOK

Don't forget to go the WBG [Facebook](#) page. John Sheely  
and the team upload photos continually of plants and flowers  
as they change and come into bloom. It is a good way to go  
to the gardens from your lounge room, when you are unable  
to get there in person, or of course encourage you to visit.  
Get on board



Globe Flower (Echinops ritro 'Veitch's Blue')

## BOOKING AN EVENT IN THE GARDENS

Are you thinking of holding an event in the Gardens ?  
Please go to our [web site](#) to get information and to download  
the application form. You are also able to book by going to  
the gardens or WCC during work hours and obtaining a  
booking form.

## MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

We have an on line [membership form](#) that you can fill in and send  
to us. Then make you payment by the usual way of Direct  
Payment or by sending a cheque

EFT

BSB: 083 957

Account Number: 048342632

Refer: Your Name (this is important to enable us to match our records  
with your payment)