



# FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

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Maintaining and developing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden



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

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

One of the enduring myths about life in Warrnambool is that it becomes quieter in winter. It is often stated that "retirees all fly north at this time of year" and that "there's not much on in town". It's too cold to go out, so we all hunker down and watch the telly for the winter, occasionally venturing out to check for whales. The Botanic Gardens and the Friends committee are testament to the fallacy of these beliefs.

By the closing date, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 160 entries had been submitted for our photographic competition. The majority of these seem to have been taken in the last week of the competition, and show the Gardens as a colourful and interesting place to visit in winter. These photos, in a variety of styles and focussing on a range of different aspects of the site, have all been mounted ready for display. Together they reflect the importance of our Botanic Gardens as a place of social, cultural, historic, recreational, botanical and scientific importance to Warrnambool.

The photos will be judged by a panel of three independent judges and prizes will be awarded in three age group categories: Under 12, 12-18 and Open.

Friends and interested members of the public are invited to the opening of an exhibition of all entries at the *Artery*, 224 Timor Street on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 5.30 – 7.30pm, where competition awards will be announced. Entry to the opening is by gold coin donation. The exhibition will run until Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July, and can be viewed during the usual opening times at the *Artery*: Wednesdays to Sundays 10am-4pm.

The Friends committee is grateful for the support of Sinclair Wilson Accountants for sponsorship of the exhibition and members of the Warrnambool Camera Club for their volunteer labour in mounting all entries.

Our Annual General Meeting is another reason not to leave Warrnambool in winter. Dates and details of this event appear elsewhere in this newsletter, so all that remains to be said is: nice lunch, warm and comfortable venue, interesting guest speaker, a chance to renew your membership and hear the plans for the rest of this year's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Hoping to see you at one or both of our July events.

*President Janet Macdonald*

## HISTORY OR WATER IN THE GARDENS

From curators Scoborio to Sheely, from rain water tanks to Rain bird irrigation, our Gardens have been defined by water.

In the beginning the only source of water was rain water, stored in tanks and hauled by horse or man to the newly planted trees. When a well was sunk in 1882 and a windmill erected soon after, it was possible, by pipeline and hose, to better water the flower beds and lawns, but the work was exhausting. Scoborio reported to the Town Council in 1898:-

*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 disasterous (sic) 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.*

Fifty years later there appears to have been little improvement as in Dec 1948 Curator Duncan Leitch reported :-

*Watering has been our main problem in the dry weather as we have not got enough volume of water to get over the work in eight hours a day.*

From 1893 Warrnambool's water supply came from the Merri River and after 1939 from the Otways. The Gardens tapped into the town supply and reticulated water seemed to be an inexhaustible resource. Demand grew and supply diminished so in 1961 a bore was sunk in the Gardens and ground water was once again in use. A bore water line through the Pinetum was constructed in 1995. Never the less much of the time of the staff was still involved in moving sprinklers and hauling hoses.



The Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens was established in 1989. Their primary aim has been the protection, preservation and promotion of our Guilfoyle designed garden. One of their first projects was the restoration of the fountain. It soon became apparent to them that a sustainable Guilfoyle Garden needed to conserve water and promote water wise gardening. The Friends minutes for August 2005 list water conservation and an effective watering system as their top priority. Progress has been slow, but steady. John Sheely was appointed curator in 2007 and worked with the Friends and Wannon Water to establish a linear bed north of the cottage as an exemplary water wise garden. This is an educational demonstration of what to do, but the gardens were still of necessity, being watered manually throughout the heat of the day.

It was clear that an automated watering system would be a sound investment. The Friends were looking for a two part plan in 2005, (design and implementation), but WCC would not commit to the implementation phase. The initiative lapsed.

From that time progress has been piece meal and incremental. Grants, such as Anzac Centenary Local Grant which supported irrigation to the Lone Pine, and contributions from The Friends, together with wise and frugal use of Council allocations for the Gardens have combined to produce an automated system that the team can operate remotely by way of a phone. Rainbird, an international leader in irrigation has cooperated in advising and assisting to bring a dream towards fruition.

Now in the Gardens 150<sup>th</sup> year we hope to see the restoration of the old well as educational opportunity and a heritage feature. Water has come full cycle.

*PJV June 2016*

## **ADVANCES IN IRRIGATION WITHIN WBG - A QUICK REVIEW**

Over the past few years we have slowly but surely implemented a few changes to the way watering is undertaken within WBG.

With the generous financial assistance of FOWBG we have replaced significant metres of old gal pipe with poly pipe.

This improvement in underground infrastructure has enabled better distribution of flow and therefore pressure.

Along with new pipe work we have also installed irrigation cable which will enable the addition of automated lawn sprinklers when funding permits.

It is estimated that approximately 600 metres of new pipe and irrigation cable has been installed over the past 6 years.

Combined with new pipe and irrigation cable has been the automated watering of numerous shrub beds and key lawn areas.

Just recently 4 automated lawn sprinklers were installed on the rotunda lawn which will enable watering at night therefore a more sustainable use of our bore water.

Also, again due the generosity of the FOWBG, we have installed a Rainbird IQ system which enables us to operate the bore and irrigation via our phones and from off site locations.

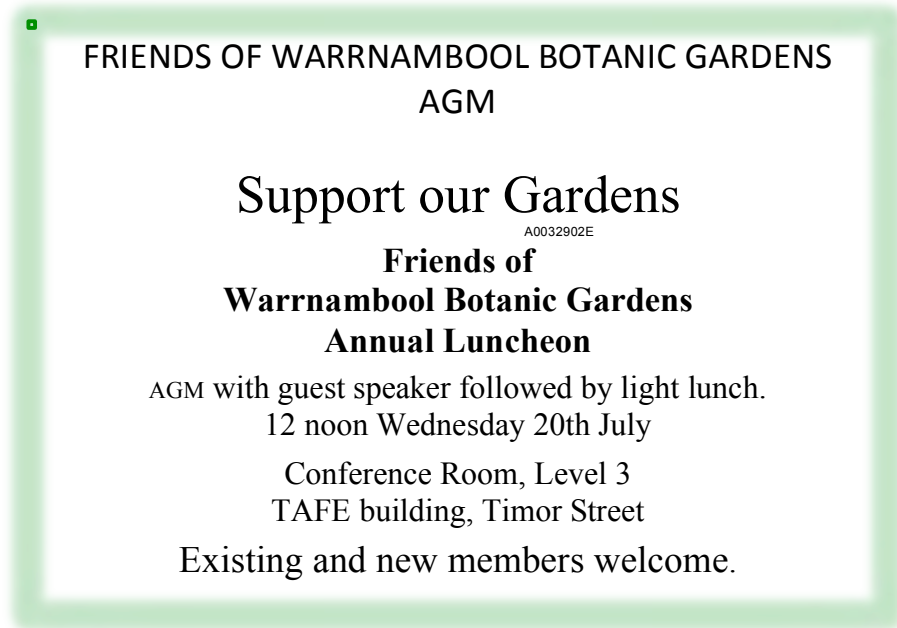
The IQ systems also allows tracking of water use and alerts to notify of any system malfunctions.

Although the above is impressive we still have a long way to go to improve our watering.

Hoses and impact sprinklers will still be used to water approximately 60% of WBG and unfortunately this will happen during the day.

Looking long term we will continue to improve and implement best irrigation practice where possible over the coming years.

*Curator John Sheely*



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS  
AGM

**Support our Gardens**  
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**Friends of  
Warrnambool Botanic Gardens  
Annual Luncheon**

AGM with guest speaker followed by light lunch.  
12 noon Wednesday 20th July  
Conference Room, Level 3  
TAFE building, Timor Street  
Existing and new members welcome.

Our guest speaker Tim Uebergang

Tim Uebergang is the horticultural curator of the University of Melbourne's System Garden. This garden dates back to 1856, when it was originally developed as a teaching garden. It has been restored and is today, the only botanic garden within an Australian university.

Tim was originally a screen printer and later worked as an animator. That was before he started collecting and illustrating plants. He continues his work as an illustrator working in a variety of styles including botanical illustration and children's illustration.

### **MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT**

This show of interest for the future of our gardens is important. A strong membership list shows interest from the Warrnambool community and others and that our gardens are supported and loved. When requesting funding through grants etc we are held in much stronger stead with a large membership following. Thank you for your on going interest and encouragement. We look forward to another successful year.

## PHOTO COMPETITION A GUILFOYLE GARDEN: GUESTS AND GREENERY

An exhibition of all photos will be held at the Artery from the 8th to 24th July. A launch for this exhibition will be on Friday 8th July 5.30 to 7.30pm. Do come. The Friends will supply nibbles and drinks will be at bar prices. We will ask for a gold coin donation on the night

We received 160 entries from enthusiastic photographers, categories cover under 12, 12-18 and open. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Botanic Gardens Committee greatly appreciates the response to this competition.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sinclair Wilson and the Warrnambool Camera Club for their support



## DAY IN THE GARDENS

Sunday 13th November 11am to 3pm

150 years 150 things to do. The 'Friends' see the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an opportunity to promote Warrnambool through its gardens. Council has agreed to partner with them in promoting this significant milestone. This day for the Family will be packed with entertainment and food for all ages. We will have community groups show casing their organisations along with plenty of fun games for children and games for adults. Music will be in abundance with schools and well known local groups along to entertain us.



## PRESTIGIOUS RAFFLE

As part of our 150th recognition we have a raffle. A dinner for eight people at the Rotunda, catered for by Dan Myers. We will have 200 tickets sold at \$10 per ticket. Don't miss out on a one off opportunity. Contact a committee member or go to our web site for details.

## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

Lynsey Poore, the guest speaker at our joint Australian Plants Society/Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens meeting at Mozart Hall, 8pm Friday 26 August. Lynsey Poore, a voluntary guide with the Royal Botanic Garden Melbourne, will explore the landscape created by Guilfoyle during his 36 years as Director of the Garden (1873-1909).

Read more about Lynsey on our web site.

## FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.

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### President

Janet Macdonald (03) 5562 4059

### Vice-president

Pat Varley (03) 5562 4800

### Secretary

Mandy King 0438620343

### Treasurer

Fiona Rule (03) 5565 4387

### Committee

Marigold Curtis (03) 5567 6316

Marie Johnstone (03) 5562 3238

Joan Keith (03) 55624377

Anne Lynch (03) 5562 1303

Judi Phillips (03) 5562 3320

Billie Rowley (03) 5561 1583

Susan Ewers (03) 5562 5608

### Correspondence:

Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc.  
P.O. Box 1190  
Warrnambool 3280

Email: [friends@wbgardens.com.au](mailto:friends@wbgardens.com.au)

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 2016

## GUIDED WALKS

Guides would like to advise that their  
regular walks conducted every Second  
and Fourth Sunday of the month  
will be postponed over the winter months.  
Walks can be organised on request.

Use this opportunity to organise a group  
of friends to walk at a time convenient  
to yourself. Either send an email or  
contact Janet Macdonald

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

## MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

These are due by the AGM on the 20th July. It is all  
so much easier now with internet banking

Membership: Family \$25, Single \$20 Corporate \$100

Our Banking details are below

EFT

BSB: 083 957

Account Number: 048342632

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

Our [web page](#) has details and an online  
membership form. By filling in this form your  
details will be sent directly to our email address.  
Then payment can be made by direct payment as  
above

## FOR YOUR DIARY

- Photo comp opening evening Friday 8th July  
5.30 - 7.30pm The Artery
- AGM Wednesday 20th July. 12 Noon at the  
TAFE building
- Lynsey Poore Friday 26th August 8pm Mozart  
Hall
- Day in the Gardens 13th November 11am to  
3pm

## MORNING IN THE GARDENS

We hold this gathering every first Wednesday of the month  
commencing at 11am. Everyone is welcome, come along to  
Scoborio's Shed located in the depot yard behind the cottage

## GIFT CERTIFICATE

Get in early for Christmas. A gift of a one year membership  
certificate is a thoughtful way to introduce your family and  
friends to the Gardens.

Please contact a committee member, email  
[friends@wbgardens.com.au](mailto:friends@wbgardens.com.au) or call Mandy on 043862034

## FACEBOOK

It is worth scrolling down through the photos taken over  
the passed years. Click [here](#) to be taken straight to our  
Facebook page

## BOOKING AN EVENT IN THE GARDENS

Go to our [website](#) to get information and to download an  
application form. You are also able to book by going to the  
gardens or WCC during work hours and obtaining a  
booking form.

To date there is no charge for booked events in the  
Gardens. The staff add to their busy day, cleaning the  
rotunda and surrounds. While use of the gardens is free  
donations to the Friends is welcome, your donation will be  
used to improve any and all aspects of the Gardens, for now  
and into the future. In advance thank you for your support.