



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

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Maintaining and developing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden

NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 86

September

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

Note from the President

Well after what seemed to be a long cold and wet winter, spring has arrived and with it some spectacular action. The birds, the bees the trees and the flowers have all done their bit, but there has also been action in the built environment.

If you have visited the Gardens recently you will have noticed that the paving around the well is now in place and looking good. Work is well advanced on the all abilities toilet in the north east corner and it is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

We gained a grant of \$3,000 from the Community Development Fund for a system of interactive mapping and labelling of the trees in the Gardens and have just learnt that our Pick my Project was also a winner with \$195,000. This is for a nature based play space where natural materials and carefully selected plants will provide for both passive and creative play. Thankyou to all who voted for this project and special thanks to vice

president Janet Macdonald for her promotion of the concept. It is consistent with the Master Plan and supported by WCC. Now for its implementation.

Have you walked through the 'pinetum' lately? We have a remarkable collection of pines in the western half of the Gardens. Our Curator walked some of the Committee through this area recently and impressed us with the quality and variety of this unique collection. Only two, the Lone Pine and the Solidad Pine, are on the register of significant trees.

As this is our first Newsletter since our AGM we include the relevant annual reports. The meeting was well attended and the new time of 5.00pm was successful.

Hope to se you in the Gardens soon.

THE WELL



ALL ABILITIES TOILETS



PINETUM WALK WITH JOHN



PICK MY PROJECT - NATURE PLAY SPACE



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT AGM JULY 2018

It is very pleasing to present the 26th annual report of the Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. The original Steering Committee of the Friends was formed in 1989 and their inaugural AGM held in 1992. Currently we have 130 members.

The Friends have continued to promote the Gardens through guided walks and talks. Our clientele is wide and varied including primary school children, interstate bus tours, Archie Graham Centre and the Dendrology Society of Australia and New Zealand.

Our quarterly Newsletter is designed to keep members informed, as are monthly events which this year included talks by photographer Perry Cho, and visits to other displays. Among the latter was History House, Elizabeth Walls' garden and the Celia Rosser exhibition in the Hamilton Art Gallery. The President and Secretary attended the conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens in Benalla in April.

Our top priority, the all abilities toilet has again been deferred. This saga has now extended over seven years. The existing toilets are not compliant and the need is urgent.

Equally frustrating is the slow progress on the reinstatement of the well. There is progress however and we anticipate completion of the work before the end of the year. Lighting has been installed down the well and thanks to the Triton Woodworkers the seating has been completed. The generous support of the Isobel Jones Family and of Judi Phillips has been so encouraging.

Our work has been supported by a grant of \$3,000 from the Community Development Fund, \$6,600 from Stronger Communities and \$5,000 from the Isobel and David Jones Family Foundation.

Looking to the future we plan to have an interactive map of the Gardens accessible on an electronic device and web page, which together with plant labels will make available a wealth of information. We know from comments on Facebook that the Gardens are appreciated by visitors from far and wide. Secretary Mandy King works constantly to promote our past and present on our website.

We are also making a bid for funds for a nature based play space in the Gardens. This will be a competitive bid so watch out for a call for support.

This year we lost life member Marie Johnstone while another life member Marigold Curtis retired from the Committee. We will miss them.

We do well to acknowledge our strengths; an outstanding Curator and his supportive team, a hard working committee, a loyal membership and a wonderful Guilfoyle Garden.

Thankyou all.

Pat Varley.

President

2018 AGM

We changed the venue and time which proved to create a very successful AGM

We had two guest speakers Jessica Hood who spoke about heritage and John Sheely who gave us an oversight of the gardens, through an indepth powerpoint presentation, highlighting his twelve years as curator. This gave us an amazing understanding of the changes created over this time and the progress into the future. We are delighted that the gardens will stand strong for generations to come

FRIENDS OF THE WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS (NON-REPORTING) INC.
STATEMENT OF BALANCES
AS AT 30 JUNE, 2018

	2017 \$	2017 \$
ASSETS		
General Bank Account	18,449	17,533
Cash on Hand	4	4
Total Funds held as at 30 June, 2018	18,453	17,537

FRIENDS OF THE WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS (NON-REPORTING) INC.
BANK RECONCILIATION - GENERAL ACCOUNT
AS AT 30 JUNE, 2018

Cash Book Balance at 1 July, 2017	17,533
Add: Receipts	23,896
Less: Payments	(22,980)
Cash Book Balance as at 30 June, 2018	18,449

Searchable Database & Tree Maps

Watch the WBG web page, there will be a new look interface along with an interactive tree search wbgardens.com.au

Creation of an online database using the existing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens data, GPS coordinates and images for each tree.

Users will be able to search for a specific tree, such as by common name, botanical name, age, area located in the Gardens, etc

Modules & templates developed to display search results providing information from the database with an accompanying picture and Google Map showing the exact location of the tree within the Gardens

A 'Get directions' option can take the user to the Google Maps GPS function that will display for the user the exact location of the tree relevant to their location.



WOLLEMI PINE -

Extract from an article from the Conversation

There's a tree that once covered the whole of Australia, then dwindled to a dozen examples, and is now spread around the world. We call it the Wollemi pine (*Wollemia nobilis*), but you could call it the dinosaur tree.

Fossil evidence indicates that between 200 million and 100 million years ago, Wollemi pine was present across all of Australia. A dryer, more flammable continent is likely to have driven the tree to near extinction over the millennia, leaving just a very small remnant of the Wollemi in a secluded deep gully not far from Sydney.

And there these trees remained, hidden, until they were discovered by a canyoning National Park worker in 1994.

The reaction to the discovery of this tree, thought to have disappeared 100 million years ago and only known through its fossils, was spectacular. Great secrecy was maintained around the site of the find. Because there were so few, the individual trees in the gorge were given their own names to celebrate their importance and acknowledge the efforts of those trying to protect them.

Scientists, arborists and botanists swung into action to discover ways to propagate more trees and establish other colonies of the Wollemi as insurance against that single refuge being lost.

There was a great sigh of relief when it was discovered that trees could be successfully cloned, and new trees were potted up in the Sydney and Mount Annan Botanic Gardens. The interest in these original cloned offspring was so great that they were auctioned off by Sotheby's, with the profits going back to support more research into this little-known living fossil.

Students and staff from my school at the Australian National University pooled together to bid for a clone of the Wollemi, christened the "John Banks" – named for our colleague Dr John C.G. Banks, who was one of the first researchers to describe the tree's dendrology. We planted our tree in memory of John, with a cage around it because it was so rare and valuable.

Sent around the world

In 2006, just over a decade after the original discovery, huge numbers of cloned Wollemi Pine seedlings were released from the official nursery in Queensland.

Every major nursery in Australia stocked potted Wollemi Pines for sale to a public who were keen to own a piece of ancient life and help ensure it didn't go extinct. Enthusiasts around the world also bought their own dinosaur trees.

But it's not just gardeners who have spread the Wollemi back to all corners of Australia and across the seas. Special Wollemi pines are also in the diplomatic service, having been presented by Australian prime ministers and foreign affairs ministers to various dignitaries.

Sir David Attenborough planted a Wollemi pine at Kew Gardens in West London, in May 2005. EPA/ Geoff Caddick

Seedlings are an obvious choice to represent long-term friendship and trust, as the act of planting a tree is one of hope for the future and a common good. A seedling that can trace its history back more than 100 million years, and which represents the reversal of an extinction, is even better.

Wollemi were thought to be extinct long before humans arrived in Australia, so there is no opportunity for humans to have used it in any specific way. However, ancient species may have properties or traits that are no longer present in evolved plants and these may be useful. For example, extracts from Wollemi pine leaves have been found to be successful in inhibiting a pest that affects winter wheat production – which may help control an expensive problem without herbicides.

Scientists found that extracts from the leaves of the Wollemi contained chemicals that had never previously been described, and which suppressed annual ryegrass (*Lolium rigidum*). The ryegrass, like many modern weeds, has evolved in the absence of Wollemi and thus was unlikely to have unlikely to have developed resistance to its chemistry.

The Conversation

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL

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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 2018

To save time, paper and postage
Please ask to have your Newsletter sent by email.
Send us an email at friends@wbgardens.com.au
and we will put you on the email list

WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS WEB SITE AND FRIENDS OF THE WBG

The web site now has a secure SSL certificate ensuring it is safe for all to visit.

There is so much to be learned about the gardens by visiting the site, please click [HERE](#)

Funding has been applied for to create an interactive tree database, so come back soon

Not just one but two.
We are in esteemed company.

Congratulations Pat & Janet, on their nominations for the Victorian Senior of the Year Award

Award details



ARCHIE GRAHAM - 150th Celebration

This painting was at the Gardens on the 150th celebration for all to contribute, it then went to Archie Graham to be completed. Below is a picture of the Botanical Gardens Artwork ...and proud artists from Archie!, Marj Tolley, Robert GleesonLynette, Hooton, Bev McKenzie. They've even signed the back to claim their work. It's a lovely reminder of the 150th Birthday Celebrations.

Picture sent to us by Clare Vaughan



At our October First Wednesday of the month gathering, Barry Baker Chairman of South West Community Foundation enlightened us on the their support for charitable activities in the community of south west Victoria / www.southwestcommunityfoundation.org

GUIDED TOURS

To organise a tour please contact a committee member or email friends@wbgardens.com.au