



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

A0032902E

Maintaining and developing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden

NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 87

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello members new and old. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our Christmas celebrations in the Gardens on Wednesday 5th December from 5.30pm. Come along and bring a friend.

As this is our last newsletter for the year I thought it would be informative to reflect on what has been achieved this year and over the recent past.

Those of you who attended the AGM would have enjoyed the talk by Curator John Sheely with then and now photographs illustrating developments over his twelve years as curator. John is an excellent communicator, photographer and botanist and his power point presentation was a delight. He is a great advocate for the Gardens and has established links with numerous organisations including primary and secondary schools, TAFE, children's services, Triton woodworkers, Rotary and many other service clubs. On the international scene he is a member of BGANZ (Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand), a member of the prestigious International Dendrology Society and has worked and studied in some famous gardens in Europe.

He is always available to meet with the 'Friends', to discuss, inform and assist – you will find him cooking at the sausage sizzle or distributing chairs at fairs and functions or weeding the garden beds.

Our Guilfoyle designed garden is registered by the National Trust, the National Estate and the Victorian Heritage Register. It is on land controlled by WCC and it belongs to the people of Warrnambool.

This is an enviable situation, but negotiating these sometimes diverse interests can take time, skill and patience and we ask for understanding if at times progress is slow.

In December, after some seven years in the making, our all abilities toilet will be complete. Those seeking insight into its evolution are referred to *Clochemerle* Gabriel Chevalier (1936)

This year too we were successful in our Pick my Project application for a nature based play space using natural materials. There will be some administrative hoops to jump through, but we are in training.

Heritage adviser John Hawker recently walked the Gardens with John Sheely and Mandy King and expressed delight at the increasing collection of rare and interesting plants John is acquiring. Some of these are in the pinetum which has been transformed from a dusty park to a significant collection of conifers. Likewise the palm collection has been enhanced and we are on the way to having a unique collection of *Acanthus*. Little by little an automated water system is expanding as funds from the Friends and from Council become available. This has been a long standing priority of the Friends. It economises on labour and water contributing to sustainability and affordability.

Can I draw your attention to the Friends web page wbgardens.com.au. It gives access to a great deal of information including past newsletters and garden

history. We are currently updating the website and creating an online data base which will let users search for a specific tree by age or common name and we are in the process of creating a virtual walk through the gardens that can be viewed from your device. Did you know that the first use of a QR code by WCC was the one on the rotunda researched and developed by our Curator?

Those who follow the Gardens on 'facebook' will know how effective it is in their promotion. It is widely 'liked' and draws positive comment. Thanks to John and the team for maintaining this avenue of communication.

Come join us, rain , hail or shine Wednesday 5th December from 5.30.
Pat Varley



After John Hawker's walk around the Gardens, he sent us his thoughts on John's management of the gardens.

John Hawker was on the advisory committee for our first masterplan in 1995, and has take a keen interest in our gardens for many years

Continuing to manage and replant the pine and cypress perimeter planting which commenced in 1984, a very important windbreak planting

Major upgrade of beds and removal of beds of little value

Restoration of the fernery, 2009, and the well development

Major increase in the plant diversity, adding significantly to the botanical collection and Gardens significance, includes the palm collection, water wise bed, fern collection (Otways flora)

Important collection of pines in the Pinetum, added many new and rare species to the collection, some sourced from Bill Funk at Dunkeld, holder of a major tree collection

Planted a *Pinus torreyana* (sourced from White Hills BG) as a future replacement of the registered tree

Numerous landscaping improvements, the main entrance, fountain beds, round bed & surrounds, and rotunda lawn

indigenous bed, and Rough-barked Manna Gum plantings

The one important change (the most important to me) is the mulching of beds, rather than bare earth !, which was present in the 1980s

Plant labels

John has done a fantastic job, very helpful and friendly, and interested, which I'm sure the Friends also find

John Hawker

Heritage Officer (Horticulture) Heritage Victoria



ACANTHUS COLLECTION
WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC
GARDENS



Acanthus mollis
'Hollard's gold'



Acanthus mollis
'Red legs'



Acanthus mollis
'Latifolius'



Acanthus
caroli-alexandri



Acanthus mollis



Acanthus mollis



Acanthus mollis
'Tasmanian angel'

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL

BOTANIC GARDENS Inc

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President

Pat Varley (03) 5562 4800

Vice-president

Janet Macdonald (03) 5562 4059

Secretary

Mandy King 0438 620 343

Treasurer

Fiona Rule 0438 622 199

Committee

Joan Keith (03) 55624377

Anne Lynch (03) 5562 1303

Judi Phillips (03) 5562 3320

Susan Ewers (03) 5562 5608

Heather Martin-Trigg 0400 621 305

Correspondence:

Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc.

P.O. Box 1190

Warrnambool 3280

Email: 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
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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



CHRISTMAS IN THE GARDENS 5.30pm Wednesday 5th November



OLD TREES

In view of the recent reaction by the community to the proposal that two of the 100 year old Moreton Bay Figs on Raglan Parade be removed members might be interested in the article copied here from 'The Conversation' 7/7/18.

There's something amazing about old trees in big cities. You can't help but wonder how they've managed to survive, why were they the lucky tree that missed being lopped in exchange for a new road, building or path. Interestingly, Australia's landscapes (even our cities) are dotted with mature eucalypts that were standing well before Captain Cook sailed into Botany Bay. They're important not only for historical reasons, but also environmentally – the number of native birds in an area declines by half with the loss of every five mature eucalypts. [In this piece](#), Associate Professor Philip Gibbons explains the importance of preserving these old trees – if you're planning a nice weekend walk, you might find yourself appreciating them a little more than before.

Molly Glassey
Newsletter Editor

GUIDED TOURS

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