

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS



NEWSLETTER

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Maintaining and developing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In this year of drought and fire, the Western District stands out as a green and peaceful land, and within it Warrnambool Botanic Gardens are even greener and more peaceful. Thanks to all who work to maintain their beauty and serenity.

In our last Newsletter I reported that our proposed nature based play space was awaiting approval from Heritage Victoria. This is still the case, and I will attempt to explain the delay.

The location selected for the project is on the Botanic Road boundary and designated by signs reading "Watch this Space". Initially we believed there would be no need for Heritage approval as there would be no impact on trees, the site under utilised and well located. Not only were we wrong, but informal feedback indicated that there was opposition to the site and lack of enthusiasm for the project from Heritage Victoria.

After careful consideration we agreed to proceed with an application to Heritage Victoria for a nature play space on the site we had originally chosen. We were advised there was a greater chance of success if we had input from a heritage adviser and engaged Grieve Gillett Anderson believing they could meet the tight deadline of the first week in November. They did. We were keen to progress as soon as possible and before the Christmas holiday season kicked in. We applied for a waiver of the application fee at Heritage Victoria at the same time as applying for approval of the project. We have just been informed that we will not be charged the application fee (\$5,000).

So we can anticipate the result of our project application within 60 days from November 18th.

The whole exercise has been frustrating, time consuming and costly, but we believe the nature play space would be a valuable addition to the gardens, as

did the 347 people who voted for it in Pick my Project. The message is still "Watch this Space".

Pat Varley

Ninetieth edition of our Newsletter

Iris Marigold Curtis joined the committee of the Friends in 1990 and received a life membership in 2004. In her time on the committee amongst many things she was the editor for the first 50 copies of our newsletter



Marigod Curtis and
Isobel Jones



Mexican hand
plant, donated by
Marigold and in
flower in the
gardens

A FEAST of FLORA

Three recently published books and one still to come.

In 'Gardens on the Edge' Christine Reid presents a beautifully illustrated story of 18 Australian gardens each of which can be described as on the edge of some geographic feature.

There are two in southern Victoria. Gnotuk, a garden on the edge of a crater lake, is the garden of Alun and Fiona Morris, west of Camperdown. It contains many rare and unusual plants with 13 trees listed as significant by the national Trust. The land was first taken up by Niel Black and given to his nephew Archie Black in 1860. The design of the garden owes much to Daniel Bunce then in charge of the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Coriyule, a garden on the edge of Corio Bay, records the restoration of this sandstone mansion built in 1849 in the Gothic revival style. It was the home of those two remarkable pioneering ladies, Anne Drysdale and Caroline Newcombe. When the present owners Bryce Raworth and Isobel Williams bought it ten years ago it was derelict and the grounds were alive with rabbits. Some of the old trees remain and have been nursed back to health while the house has been meticulously restored.

Gardens on the Edge' by Christine Reid (Murdoch Books 2018)

Mr Guilfoyle's Shakespearian Botany, edited by Diana Hill and Edmée Cudmore, was published by The Miegunyah Press in 2018. It was followed in 2019 with *Mr Guilfoyle's Honeymoon* and a third volume, *Mr Guilfoyle's South Sea Islands Adventure on HMS Challenger*, completes the trilogy.

Guilfoyle displays not only his expertise in plants, but his interest and knowledge of Shakespeare in the series of articles he contributed to the *Bankers' Magazine* from 1899 – 1901.

In alphabetical order, from Aconitum to Yew he describes the plants referenced by the bard and tell their story.

“What's in a name? That which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet.”
Romeo and Juliet, Act 2

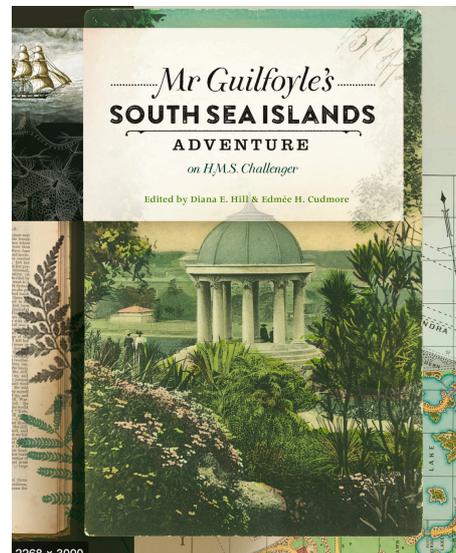
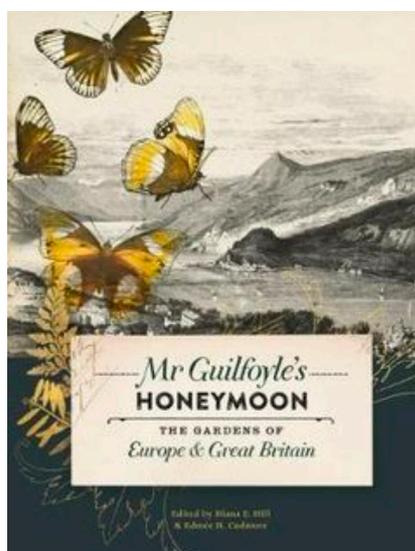
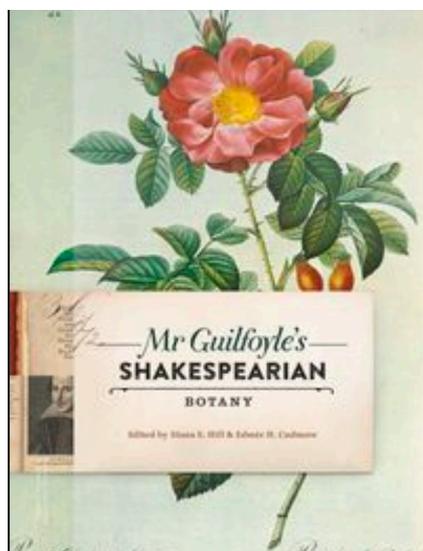
“The rose from the earliest times has been the most zealously cultivated of all flowers”
“Probably there is no country known where Roses thrive better, blossom more freely,
or remain longer in bloom than in Australia.”

When Guilfoyle married Alice Darling in 1889 he was 48 and she was 20 years younger. Their honey moon was a nine month grand tour of Europe during which he visited more than 150 gardens. The highlight of his tour was Kew Gardens “which may be regarded as the botanical centre of the world”. He kept copious notes and compiled a detailed report.

This was eventually published in the *Bankers' Magazine of Australasia* in 1897.

The many illustrations are a delight. In his introduction, Tim Entwisle, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, notes, ‘Guilfoyle....was not only a keen and skilled writer, but also a talented artist.

Pat Varley





ENTRANCE GATES

The two formal entries to WBG are both located on the Cockman St, south boundary of the Gardens. Guilfoyle planned it this way, as the south side was adjacent to the town edge in 1870s. Araucaria heterophylla plantings outside the main gate (SE corner, Queens Rd & Cockman St) are evidence of a formal approach, land for this was purchased in 1879, indicating this triangle was a deliberate attempt to formalise the main entry at the time Scoborio et al were enacting Guilfoyle's plan. Municipality did not extend beyond the northern boundary (Botanic Rd) until more recent times. In the 1960s informal entrances on Botanic Rd (north side) were added and in the 1980s the existing boundary fence was built. Prior to that cars parked under trees on all four boundaries. Photographs show large, old cypress boundary plantings right along northern boundary prior to 1980s, and the north boundary only partially fenced at eastern end (Pratt,1926)

The closure of Cockman St at the east end in 2007 as a traffic management solution to congestion along Jamieson St and the construction of St Joseph's school in 1986 has facilitated the use of the secondary entrances on Botanic Rd, however pedestrian traffic, tour buses and many people approaching by car favour the more formal south entrances. Botanic Road is a busy link road which diverts traffic between Hopkins Highway and Princes Highway, therefore only informal parking for approximately 30 cars is provided along south side against Botanic Gardens fence. The school carpark, 60 spaces, is available at weekends. There are 46 car parking bays in Cockman St, between the main gates, with another 28 informal parks available on the south side of that street. Plenty of parking.

1995 Management plan

6.2.6 Approach to Main Gate The triangular traffic island at the Cockman Street/Queen Street intersection contains three Norfolk Island Pines probably planted prior to 1900. Now mature, these trees are a prominent landmark which helps to identify and emphasise the main Gardens entrance.

Therefore: Conserve the trees and this precinct as part of the entrance experience of the main gates.

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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
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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](#)

You can now tour the gardens on your phone or
computer through the interactive, google tour
Warrnambool botanic gardens drag [your mouse](#) around
the gardens.

GUIDED TOURS

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



THE BOYS ARE BACK

Under the guidance of Len Byron the Triton Woodworkers built the new gun carriage in 2010. This week the carriage has been cleaned and WW have given it new lick of paint

COCKMAN STREET



BOTANIC ROAD



Existing conditions at Entrance N°5

Roses growing well on the old toilet wall
beside the site of the old well

