



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS  
NEWSLETTER VOLUME 4. WINTER, 1994



We have decided to bring out the Newsletter every season to bring you more up to date with the activities of the Friends and what the Committee is planning for the coming months. So here is our Winter edition - we do hope you like the new format, and suggestions or comments are most welcome.

1. Annual General Meeting

This meeting, held in the Warrnambool Council Chambers on May 24th, was a particularly important one because the new Master Plan for the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens was presented to the Committee, Friends and members of the public for review and comment. The Plan had been drawn up by S.F. Landscape Consultants for the future direction of the Gardens. However, before the Plan was reviewed, Ellen Dwyer our President reported on the activities of the past year as follows.

Garden Seminar of Western District Garden Clubs - This is an annual conference and some of us attended this lovely day in Caramut where we heard reports given by the various clubs and a talk by Sarah Guest the leading garden authority and writer. Some of the clubs came from as far as Ararat and Mt. Gambier.

Garden Visits - Ellen Dwyer reported on visiting the gardens of Nerrin Nerrin, Kornong and Wooriwyrite. The day had been most enjoyable and we are planning a similar trip in the Spring.

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens - We were fortunate to have the Mayor of the City of Warrnambool present, Mr. Bill McConnell, and the Committee was elected for 1994/5 and office bearers as follows:

|                 |   |                |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| Ellen Dwyer     | - | President      |
| Marie Johnstone | - | Vice President |
| Dawn Smith      | - | Secretary      |
| Kathy Wicherson | - | Treasurer      |

Friends Sub-Committees - It has been agreed to form several groups to help organise the various activities of the Friends. These people would welcome any of you who might like to join. If you have a particular interest in any of these areas and would like to help - please let us hear from you!

|                                                  |   |                     |             |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------|
| <u>The Growers Group</u>                         | - | Lorraine Richardson | (65 - 1217) |
| <u>Music in the Gardens</u>                      | - | Marie Johnstone     | (62 - 3238) |
| and other entertainment during the Summer months |   |                     |             |
| <u>Fund Raising</u>                              | - | Ellen Dwyer         | (62 - 7539) |
| <u>Social Activities</u>                         | - | Kathy Wicherson     | (62 - 1436) |
| <u>Newsletter</u>                                | - | Marigold Curtis     | (67 - 6316) |

## 2. Annual Conference of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens

Marigold Curtis attended the fourth Annual Conference which took place this year in Geelong. The keynote address was given by Dr. Brian Morley, Director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens - which is now considered to be one of the top 10 botanic gardens in the world! He spoke of the main role of botanic gardens, namely:

- . the importance of caring for - and conserving - indigenous plants, e.g. coastal, rain forest, dryland
- . the desirability of each garden to represent what flora is special to its district
- . the tourist and visitor factor
- . as an education resource
- . the practical conservation between botanic gardens and national parks

The conference focussed on the future role of botanic gardens, their funding, sponsorship and promotion through Friends groups such as ours. The importance of well-run gardens for the community cannot be over-emphasized. There should be an interaction between horticulture colleges, nurseries and suppliers, local field naturalist groups, local and shire authorities, Landcare, and Deakin University for example.

Richard Barley also spoke - he is now Manager Gardens Division of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and known to some of us as he advised us on the maintenance of our pine trees. He spoke on the future role of botanic gardens and importance of the interaction with the above institutions.

The next Annual Conference will take place in Benalla in April 1995.

## 3. The Master Plan

The plan for the future development of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens was introduced by Peter Reeve, Director of Technical Services for the W.C.C. and presented by the landscape consultants Jill Orr-Young, Patrick Mallon and Ross Ingram. The plan had been studied by the Steering Committee over the past few months and we were fortunate to have the designers themselves outline their ideas to us.

They explained the cultural significance of the gardens to Warrnambool, the William Guilfoyle early plan and influence - open and enclosed spaces, long vistas, the grouping of conifers, the clever contrast between evergreens and deciduous trees, indigenous plants, the early Eucalypts and tropical areas.

The landscape group had looked at possible improvements to the entrance, the curator's cottage and work area (with likely future development for schools' use), perimeter fencing and planting to the East. The rotunda and lake area had also been studied for future development and improvements. Their proposals for the future and those ideas put to them by people present at the meeting will all be compiled into the Master Plan.

Members of the public can still view the plan at the Warrnambool City offices and make any suggestions they wish up to July 1st. Peter Reeve has kindly agreed to accept proposals put to him by Friends up to July 8th.

#### 4. Dates for your Diary

Sunday, 9th October Visit to Purrumbete house and garden  
where we will be able to see the llamas  
and their crea

Friday, 25th November Visit to Nerrin Nerrin, Kornong and Wooriwyrite -  
details to be confirmed in the next newsletter

#### 5. Annual Subscriptions

Subscriptions of \$5:00 for 1994/5 are now due. If you have not already paid would you kindly complete the form below and forward your cheque to the address as stated.

Membership is open to any one interested in the preservation and promotion of the Gardens - especially important now that the Master Plan is being drawn up which will affect its development for future generations. We do hope you will encourage friends to join.

I.M. Curtis

To: Mrs. Kathy Wicherson, Treasurer,  
"Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens"  
22 Dooley Street,  
Warrnambool, 3280

I, Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

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print)

of \_\_\_\_\_

postcode \_\_\_\_\_

enclose cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_