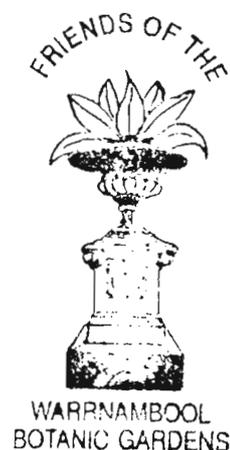


## FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

NEWSLETTER. SPRING, 1996



If any of you have read an article by Andrew Seccull in the "Age" (23/8/96) he recommended Victoria or the Southern part of Australia should really have six seasons a year. When one thinks of the acacias and jonquils which have been blooming in a wonderful fashion this year since early July - one can hardly say the 1st September is Spring. So here is a newsletter before "late" Spring is upon us and your calendar gets filled up with engagements.

We propose two bus trips to see outstanding gardens in the Western District and would like to hear from you as to which (or both!) would interest you - please see overleaf.

### Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. of the Friends was held on 7th July and we welcomed Marie Johnstone as our new President for 1996/7. Mr. Bill Gill, Director of Planning & Engineering, W.C.C., announced the following office bearers for the current year: Barbara O'Brien - Vice President, Dawn Smith - Secretary and Kathy Wicherson - Treasurer. (Please don't forget subscriptions for 96/7 were due in July so would you please send your \$7 to Kathy, 22 Dooley Street, Warrnambool if you have not already paid). The following new members to the committee were also announced and welcomed: Judy Phillips, Wendy McWhinney and Marie Ziebell.

Judith Loch our outgoing President spoke of the many things achieved by the Friends over the past year, including becoming incorporated and being given over 100 trees from the Royal Botanic Gardens as part of "Flora for Victoria". She was warmly thanked for all her hard work and dedication during the year.

Mary Griffith from Port Fairy gave us a wonderful talk on how to encourage native birds into our gardens. Mary began by eliminating cats! and gave advice on suitable trees and shrubs which birds can feed on, pointing out species that could be introduced which would provide them with nectar or seeds around the year. Mary also has two designs for a nectar feeder to hold water, brown sugar and Pentavite.... on no account give them honey. If you would like a copy of the designs and how to prepare the nectar, please ring me (Marigold) on 67 - 6316 and I shall send out the details to you.

### Seating for our Botanic Gardens

We are currently reviewing different designs for garden seats. Several groups have already donated money towards these, e.g. Rotary Club and some people wish to give seats as a memorial to their family. It is important that we decide on a suitable design for what is a Victorian, Guilfoyle-designed garden and any ideas you may have on the subject would be welcome. Please ring Ellen Dwyer on 62 - 7539 on this matter.

### Bus Trips for the Spring

We are planning two bus trips for Friends in October and November, and would like to hear from you on which gardens you would prefer to visit (or both!) before the next meeting of the committee on Wednesday, 18th September.

Please telephone Marie Johnstone on 62 - 3238 to let us know your interest in order that we can make bus bookings. We shall be sending you details on dates, cost, lunch arrangements, etc. at a later date.

### Saturday 19th or Sunday 20th October

Trip to Colac to see the Botanic Gardens there and on to "Wanawong" - a beautiful garden set high in the Otway Ranges where Janet & David Hopkins will give us lunch. Wanawong has superb views across the distant valleys and hills. Their rhododendrons should be beautiful at this time of the year.

We will then visit "Turkeith" home of Janet & Lachlan Gordon and "Mooleric" owned by Sally & Angus Ramsay. Both these gardens were designed by William Guilfoyle in 1903 - 09 and therefore should be of particular interest to us.

### Saturday 16th or Sunday 17th November

There are six gardens open to the public around Hamilton - "Mistydowns", "Pear Tree Cottage" and "Pine Grove" to name but a few. They are open as a group and are part of a Rose Festival being organised by Judy Morrison of Mistydowns from 16th - 24th November, inclusive.

There are several workshops on rose growing and lectures during this time. If any of you wish to go up independently please contact Judy on (055) 74 - 3261, for brochures and garden entry vouchers.

As mentioned earlier, we would like to hear from you if you wish to join us on these trips before 18th September. Please call Marie Johnstone so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Marigold Curtis  
1.9.96