



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.

A0032902E



Issue No. 25

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2001

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 19TH JULY 2001 WARRNAMBOOL CLUB KEPLER STREET. WARRNAMBOOL

11.30AM	ARRIVAL
12.00PM	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12.30—1.15PM	LUNCH (LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE FRIENDS)
1.15— 2.00PM	SPEAKER—WILLIAM MARTIN

R.S.V.P. 16TH JULY— To assist our catering committee, let us know if you will be attending, our space is limited this year and our speaker will be popular.

Please phone: Anne Kelly 55624982, Mandy King 55620343 or Marie Ziebell 55611137

GUEST SPEAKER **WILLIAM MARTIN** OF "WIGANDIA" NOORAT
Topic

"Provincial Botanic Gardens—Relics of the Past?"

William is always a thought - provoking and entertaining speaker who admires William Guilfoyle's selection of plants some of which feature in his garden at Noorat.

"Wigandia" features in the Open Garden Scheme and also appears on the cover of a recently published book "Open Gardens". This book covers 40 most popular and original gardens with text by the owners of each garden on the establishment of their gardens, design, choice of plants etc. Collins Bookstore have kindly offered to have copies of this book available for sale and William Martin will be happy to sign any book purchased on the day.

"FEDERATION FAIR"

SUNDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2001 11am—8pm

Progress with the organisation of the fair is coming along nicely with enthusiastic support being received from the Warrnambool City Council, participants and members of the public, ensuring to make this day the success we envisage

Aims of the fair

- to bring together a diverse group of people from the Warrnambool district both as exhibitors and spectators
- to provide public exposure, create networking and foster greater understanding
- to improve relations between community groups and an opportunity to benchmark
- to provide community members of all ages and cultures the opportunity to participate



If you are aware of any organisations that we have over looked please contact us
The committee would appreciate any assistance from members either leading up to or on the 18th (please call to express your area of interest)

Billie Rowley 55611583 or Mandy King 55620343

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you have enjoyed Autumn in the Gardens – the changing face of the Gardens through the seasons is something we can appreciate in our cool climate.

The Rural Community Development Program Grant, awarded to the Warrnambool City Council and the Friends by the Victorian Government in February, will enable many outstanding works to be done in the Gardens. Work will soon commence on the completion of the boundary fence along Queens Road and the restoration of the Rotunda. The restoration of garden beds (to Guilfoyle's original planting) and the removal and replacement of the boundary trees will be ongoing development in the Gardens.

The Friends are particularly pleased that interpretative signs for the Gardens, also included in the Grant, are currently being drawn, with content contributed by the Friends, and should be installed at the Main Entrance and Cockman St Entrance in a few months. These have been long overdue and will be a welcome addition to the enjoyment of the Gardens.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Vic) Inc. held in March at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, it was agreed that the Association would now open full membership from outside Victoria and many new friends of botanic gardens have joined the Association.

The Association's annual conference will be held at the Geelong Botanic Gardens from 15-17 June and some members of our committee will be attending.

The Friends were represented at the International Year of the Volunteer 2001 Expo held in Warrnambool recently and members of the committee also attended a Best Practice of Volunteers Seminar and we are happy to report that our group stood up well to the criteria and we have taken notes on where we could improve.

We are happy to welcome many new members to the Friends group in recent months and encourage member's input as to any special activities they would like to see occur. Please contact any member of our committee with your ideas.

The committee are very busy planning the Federation Fair (see report in this newsletter) which will be a highlight of the Friends activities for this year.

Marie Ziebell

RESTORATION OF THE ROTUNDA

The band rotunda was built in 1913 as an expression of Council commitment to musical entertainment in the Gardens, in response to community initiatives. It belongs to the heyday of Australian bandstands (1880-1920) and council correspondence suggests that its design was influenced by similar structures at Launceston, Prahran, Fitzroy Gardens and Albert Park (Melbourne).

The rotunda is sited on sloping lawn above the lake giving it prominence from a number of viewpoints.

The builders were Beattie & Donaldson, Raglan Parade, Warrnambool at a cost of 300 pounds of which 200 pounds was contributed by fund raising from the local residents through such activities as bazaars, fetes and concerts. The open bandstand area is elevated about 2.7 metres above a ground floor room which originally functioned as a tea kiosk.

An extract from the Geelong Advertiser – News of the Week 6/3/1913 on the opening of the Rotunda by Mayor Younger:

"These conveniences will be greatly appreciated by many of the ladies who have painful memories of former bazaars, when the boilers refused to boil even with ceaseless encouragement from man, woman and kerosene. A penny-in-the-slot gas ring is also provided for the use of smaller functions and family tea parties. The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor on Tuesday evening, when the three bands marched to the gardens and took part in the program. The Lyric Company screened a good program of pictures and an unexpected item was supplied by a chorus of jackasses from the neighbouring trees. As they chose the middle of the Mayor's address for their serenade, he was obliged to give it in sections, the diversion caused by the friendly jackasses being too much for all concerned. The entertainment was a great success, and the funds raised will be devoted to fixed music stands for the bands, and a rainwater supply in connection with the refreshment room."

Major alterations were made to the rotunda in 1981. The timber upper floor was replaced with a concrete slab and the external timber staircase replaced by an internal concrete stairway and the window openings filled in with concrete blocks.

Restoration works will re-establish the outside staircase allowing access to the rotunda and opening up of former windows. The internal room will be modestly fitted out with basic kitchen facilities.

A public fundraising appeal for the restoration of rotunda has been ongoing for some years, prior to the recent grant. The Friends have held many events in the gardens and served afternoon teas from the rotunda for this purpose. The money raised for this restoration has been held in trust and will be contributed towards the cost of this restoration. Any surplus will go towards the restoration of the gas lamps and urns in the Gardens.

Marie Ziebell

**FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL
BOTANIC GARDENS INC.**

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Patron

Hon. Richard McGarvie

President

Ms Marie Ziebell (03) 5561 1137

Secretary

Mrs Mandy King (03) 5562 0343

Treasurer

Mrs Judy Phillips (03) 5562 3320

General Committee

Marigold Curtis (03) 5567 6316

Jean Fitzpatrick (03) 5562 3447

Tricia Houghton (03) 5565 8065

Marie Johnstone (03) 5562 3238

Isobel Jones (03) 5568 1076

Anne Kelly (03) 5562 4982

Judy Phillips (03) 5562 3320

Lorraine Richardson (03) 5565 1217

Billie Rowley (03) 5561 1583

Kathey Wicherson (03) 5562 1436

Marie Ziebell (03) 5561 1137

Growing Friends Lorraine Richardson

Newsletter Editor Marigold Curtis

Newsletter Publisher Mandy King

Historian Marie Johnstone

Functions Anne Kelly

Guided Tours Isobel Jones

Public Officer Billie Rowley

Publicity Tricia Houghton

Correspondence:

Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc.

P.O. Box 1190

Warrnambool 3280

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.

Published by:

Marigold Curtis

Mandy King

14th June 2001

THEATRE LUNCHEON

Up to the time of print we have had trouble procuring a date at which the film will be shown. It is intended to hold the luncheon before the end of June. Because of these difficulties which are beyond the control of committee an ad. will be placed in the public notices of the Standard.

To help with this fundraiser the committee would be overjoyed if you could get a few friends together, and make a phone call to Anne Kelly or Lorraine Richardson. Thank you for your assistance and we hope you enjoy the day.

CHOCOLAT— The Movie

1960, small town France. Vianne Rocher and her pre-teen daughter move into town and open a chocolate shop just as Lent is beginning. The town's small-minded mayor can't accept this and does his best to shut her down, but her warm personality and incredible chocolates manage to win over many townsfolk. Things get shaken up even more when a group of river drifters, led by Roux, stop into town (to the even greater distress of the mayor) and Vianne takes up with him. Meanwhile, she's been helping Josephine out of her abusive marriage and her equally freethinking landlord, Amande Voisin, get together with her grandson, Luc, whose mother doesn't approve of Amande's ways.

GROWING FRIENDS

With the Federation Fair not that far away the Growing Friends are planning and working hard towards having a large number of plants available for sale. It is our major fundraiser for this year. With this in mind **Monday the 16th July 2001 10am to 1.00pm** has been set aside for a working bee. The growing area at the gardens will be open to all who would like to assist on this day. At this time of year there are many plants that can be either divided or struck from cuttings, these could be bought on the day or done at home. The growing friends have a large amount of potting mixture and pots, anyone working from home is welcome to these materials. Please call Lorraine Richardson or Judi Phillips for more details and/or offer of assistance.

GUIDING FRIENDS

Winter in the gardens is a magic time even though cold. Do not forget that the gardens is a perfect place to take visitors to Warrnambool, a friend or even a group outing. **Every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 2.30pm** a dedicated "guiding friend" will be waiting at the main gate to show you all the things in the gardens that you miss when walking through on your own. Private tours are available by calling the Visitors Information Centre 5564 7800.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Friends

will be held **at: Warrnambool Club 96 Kepler Street Warrnambool**
on: Thursday 19th July 2001, commencing 11.30am

BUSINESS

1. To confirm the minutes of the last annual general meeting;
2. To receive from the Committee a report of the activities of the Friends during the last financial year.
3. To elect officers of the Friends and ordinary members of the Committee;
President. Vice-President. Secretary. Treasurer. Committee (10)
4. To receive and consider the statement submitted by the Friends in accordance with section 30 (3) of the Act.
5. General: to transact any business that may be lawfully brought forward.

Date: 14th June, 2001

Amanda King
Secretary

FRIENDS OF THE WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

NOMINATION FORM 2001

The following positions are available:

President. Vice-President. Secretary. Treasurer. Committee (10)

Ihereby nominate the following person/s for the position/s noted

.....
.....

Signed.....

Signature/s and Name/s of Nominee/s

.....
Nomination form to be forwarded to: Secretary, P.O. Box 1190, Warrnambool 3280.
No later than 11th July 2001