



# FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.

A0032902E



Issue No. 29

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2003

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### Message from the President

Welcome to 2003. We look forward to having a busy and productive year with our planned calendar of events.

Our Christmas Party was a great success. Thank you to Anne Kelly and the committee members who were responsible for the lovely savouries and drinks. It was wonderful for me to meet Members whom I had not met before and I look forward to seeing more of you at our functions in the future. The highlight of the evening was the launching of Marie's wonderful History of the Friends, by Jamie Nicol, the Mayor. I am sure all of you who have read it will have found it most interesting, as well as being a permanent record for the archives. Marie is to be congratulated.

The major achievement for 2002 was the compilation of a Data Base and the labelling of the significant trees in the Gardens. Our very grateful thanks to Mandy for her expertise and continued diligence in the completion of such a major project. To date the actual installation of the labels is not complete and is awaiting Council assistance which we hope will be available soon. This initiative was funded by a \$3,600 Grant received from Parks Victoria.

The committee frequently assumes the role undertaken by Curators in other Gardens, as illustrated by the above and also in the area of submissions for funding.

Our first function for the year was running a Devonshire Tea Stall at Wunta Jazz in the Gardens. It was a pleasant and financially satisfactory day.

We are looking forward to our next two major functions which are the Teddy Bears' Picnic on March 23 between 12 noon and 3 pm and the Fair in the Gardens on April 6. We will be calling on all members for help for both of these functions.

We are still awaiting approval from Council for the reviewed Master Plan so that advancement can be made towards the planning and funding for the Children's Garden.

2003 will be a busy and hopefully satisfying year. My best wishes to you all and I look forward to meeting you at our next event.

*Billie Rowley*

Cordyline australis (or Giant Dracaena)  
Palm

Cabbage Tree

Cordylines are very versatile trees. There are no less than six varieties native to New Zealand, including the Cabbage Tree Palm, and yet we find them in abundance in the coastal regions of Queensland in a much warmer climate. Ours seem well established here and in fact were chosen by William Guilfoyle for planting in one of the islands that he designed to be 'tropical'. There is another one situated near the fountain which Charles Scoborio might well have selected in his time for this cool, secluded garden bed.

The Portland Botanical Gardens have a superb old Cordyline planted in 1860 and is considered to be one of the best specimens in the Southern Hemisphere. It is registered with the National Trust as a significant tree and was planted as part of an avenue of Cordylines.

They are beautiful trees and give a tropical touch to gardens with their palm-like leaves and sprays of scented white flowers, however they do need attention and sometimes tree surgery if they are to keep their dramatic beauty.

*Marigold Curtis*

### FAIR IN THE GARDENS

Plans for The Fair in the Gardens are underway and again we have plenty of enthusiasm from a diverse range of community groups. If you belong to a group and have been over-looked please contact Billie Rowley or contact the Friends by mail or email, we would love to include you in the festivities. Fundraising on a small scale will be allowed this year. There will be plenty of entertainment by local groups and schools along with food and beverages.

### TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

As you will be aware the Teddy Bears' picnic was a huge success last year and because of this 3YB in conjunction with the Friends will run this function again on 23rd March 2003. Our entertainment this year is Ronald McDonald, along with plenty of entertainment for the children. Bring you teddies, there will be judging and prizes for all who participate. This year we will be prepared for large crowds, if you attended last year you would realise we were slightly overwhelmed by the numbers – but we are learning.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2003

Fair In The Gardens

Sunday 6th April 2003



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL  
BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

A0032902E

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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.

Editor: Marigold Curtis  
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February 2003

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS

**The Growing Friends** have been busy potting up small plants for the Fair being held on April 6<sup>th</sup> – however **help is needed from Friends** to collect a larger amount of plants for this day. Any cuttings you can get established, especially succulents, would be most welcome. We hope you can do these for us at home. Please contact Lorraine Richardson on 5565-1217 (after 3/3/03), Judi Phillips 5562-3320, or Jan Irvine 5562-6557 if you need assistance such as extra pots or potting mixture.

The fruit trees in the Cottage Garden are looking superb and are laden with fruit – thanks to the Growing Friends for carefully watering and mulching over the summer months.

**The Guiding Friends** have been showing visitors through the gardens on a regular basis. We were delighted to learn that Janet Macdonald who has just joined the group showed seven people through on her first day. It is always interesting to exchange stories about the gardens and their long history. One visitor said that she had heard of the “friendly ghost” in the Curator’s Cottage which supports the story of people who say they have heard of a young girl who is supposed to play a piano there at dusk. On a more realistic note – we are very pleased to see family reunions and weddings taking place in our beautiful gardens.

*Marigold Curtis*



Wunta— Jazz in the gardens