



# FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.

A 0032902E



Issue No. 31

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2003

### GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS BUS TOUR

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and visit

**Turkeith and Mooleric  
Two famous Guilfoyle gardens**

**TUESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2003**

8.30 am - 5.00 pm

**\$27 per head**

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Morning and Afternoon tea will be supplied  
B.Y.O lunch or purchase at the GBG kiosk

Please contact: Anne Kelly 5562 4982 or Lorraine Richardson 5565 1217  
Or email [amandaking@datafast.net.au](mailto:amandaking@datafast.net.au)

### Master Plan Review

Tenders for the review of the Gardens Conservation and Development Plan closed on September 5. Four submissions were received, and will soon be considered by the selection committee. It is expected that the review will be completed within four months and cover the following aspects:

- Review the conservation policies and make recommendations regarding these policies.
- Review current status of the prescriptions recommended in the current plan.
- Review the outstanding prescriptions in the current plan and their relevance to the current situation.
- Review priorities and budgets.
- Investigate relevant initiatives for possible inclusion in the updated plan including a process for review and documentation of improvements.

The review will be undertaken on behalf of the Council in conjunction with the Friends, and there will be ongoing consultation with the Warrnambool community.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since our last newsletter we have held a most successful Annual General Meeting. Thank you to all the members for your continuing support. Richard Barley, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, was the guest speaker. His address highlighted the importance of significant plantings and water conservation whilst advancing heritage gardens into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He also showed some wonderful slides of the recently planted native garden in the Botanic Gardens. Later he visited our Gardens and was appalled by our recent but rapidly growing bat population.

The bats present an increasing problem. At present they are being monitored by the D. N.R.E. and to date there has been no discussion regarding their management. Each time I visit the Gardens the numbers have noticeably increased, which must eventually present a major problem.

Congratulations to the office bearers and committee members. It is a great joy to work with such a dedicated group of people who bring varied expertise to the committee.

Applications have been received for the review of the Master Plan and an appointment will be made this month. The timeframe for the review stipulates that it must be completed by mid December.

Our next interesting event is a trip to the Geelong Botanic Gardens on October 7. Two other district gardens will be included in the outing. It should be a very enjoyable day.

We will notify you of our next events when they have been finalised.

We are looking forward to another happy and successful year.

Billie Rowley 16/09/03

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>2003</b>		<b>2004</b>	
September	Networking day	February	Basket Lunch - Wunta
October	Geelong Garden tour	April	Mothers Day in gardens
November	Trip to Glenormiston	April	Caroline Blackman
December	Christmas Drinks	May	Basket Lunch

Guided walks in the Gardens Sundays 2.30 pm as listed

September 28  
October 12 and 26  
November 9 and 23  
December 14 and 28

Geelong Botanic Garden Conference 24th to 28th October 2003

## Cupressus torulosa

## Bhutan Cypress

The Bhutan Cypress would have to be one of the most majestic of all trees in our gardens. They originate, as their name indicates, in the Himalayas and one can well understand that early explorers would marvel at their stature and seek to introduce them to the grand gardens and parks of Europe where their great height and spreading branches of soft green foliage could be admired.

The name *C. torulosa* is derived from the word 'torulosus' which describes its cylindrical structure. It may be distinguished from the Monterey varieties by its softer appearance and its more slender, cylindrical young shoots.

There are as many as 30 varieties of cypress - from those found in China, Tibet (the Cashmir Cypress with its beautiful pendant branches), Mexico, North America (including the all too familiar Monterey Cypress) to Italy (the stately Mediterranean Cypress). We are lucky to have four growing in the gardens. The largest is near the south west gate with its elegant branches almost reaching the ground, and another tall one close to the fernery. This one is somewhat crowded by the nearby pine and Moreton Bay Fig, however it has a beautifully coloured deeply grooved bark trunk which picks up the sunlight at the end of the day.

It would be a great idea to plant another young one in the Pinetum to take us through the century, planted with care to allow it to grow to its full stature.



Bhutan Cypress WBG  
(On the right as you come in the gates,  
SW corner of the gardens)

### Web Site

The Friends are in the process of creating a web site. We have a page at the moment which can be found at

[www.warrnambool.nu/botanicgardens](http://www.warrnambool.nu/botanicgardens)

We will create our own site which will have stronger content and be linked to WCC as well as other relevant sites.

### Communication Internet Site

Botanic\_Gardens networking /discussion yahoo site

This is a free site that can be joined by anyone who has an interest in botanic and/or garden issues. It has the backing and support of the FOWBG and many others with botanical and gardening connections.

If you would like to become a member please email your request to join, with some detail of your interest, that will assist with the monitoring process to [amandaking@datafast.net.au](mailto:amandaking@datafast.net.au)

Note that this site is closed to members only, and ~~monitored to discourage 'of topic' discussion and spamming.~~ Once you have joined you can change your options at any time.

*Some difficulty arose with members writing their*

**FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL  
BOTANIC GARDENS INC.**  
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**President**

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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.

September 2003

**NEWS FROM THE GARDENS**

**Growers Report**

The Growing Friends have successfully potted up small plants grown from seeds collected and grown by Bradford Phillips. The seeds came from two of the oldest plants in the Gardens, the *Busaria spinosa* or Sweet Busaria and the Manna Gum. These remnants of the original vegetation are at least 150 years old, so their propagation is quite an achievement. They have been planted in small pots; between four and five dozen *Busaria* and three dozen Eucalypts.

In conjunction with gardens staff the Growing Friends have identified and labeled many additional plants as an extension of the data base project.

*Lorraine Richardson*

**Guiding Friends**

The Guiding Friends continue to show people through the gardens, but numbers have been down due to the cold and at times wet winter weather. The Guides are planning a function where they will serve scones and fruitcake to visitors as the Donald family did in the past. (They still have the recipes) Guests from the tourism and hospitality industry and other interested groups will be given tours of the Gardens as well as afternoon tea. For more information contact Marie Johnstone

The bats; Grey-headed Flying-foxes (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) have increased in numbers and persisted through the winter winds and rain. The Grey-headed Flying-fox is listed as a threatened species nationally, and potentially at risk of extinction. They are nomadic animals whose movements are determined by the availability of food. They prefer blossom, nectar and the fruit of native plants; eucalypts, teatrees, grevilleas, lilly-pillys and figs. The Moreton Bay figs of Warrnambool are attractive to them.

The Grey-headed Flying-fox can weigh up to one kilogram and have a wing span of a metre. They are social animals and roost together in camps by day while feeding individually by night. They have chosen to roost in several Canary Island Palms and a Norfolk pine in the Gardens.

The Melbourne Botanic gardens went to great lengths to remove the colony of bats from its trees. It is not known if the Warrnambool bats are from Melbourne or if they have moved down from NSW and Queensland where drought and land clearance has removed their natural food. Their arrival here and in the Geelong Gardens coincides with the departure of the colony from the Melbourne Gardens.

Warrnambool City Council and the Department of Sustainability and Environment are working together monitoring numbers and considering management options.



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