



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.

A 0032902E



Issue No. 32

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I do hope that you all had a very happy Christmas and are looking forward to an equally happy New Year.

Our outstanding activity since the last newsletter was the planting of the Hoop Pine by the Scoborio and Donald families, in honour of their ancestors, who were early Curators of the Gardens. It was most interesting to meet both families and I am sure their interest in the Gardens has been stimulated and we will see more of them in the future. Afternoon tea, using fruitcakes and scones made from Mrs. Donald's recipes, was served, and everyone enjoyed a very happy afternoon. Our congratulations to Marie for organising the day.

A day visiting Glenormiston Agricultural College and Gnotuk House was organised by Pat Varley and Isobel Jones. All who attended enjoyed the day immensely. An invitation to join members of the Hamilton Gardens Friends for lunch, was received and the people who attended had a most enjoyable day. One of our aims for 2004 is to foster greater interaction between Friends groups in the region.

Despite particularly inclement weather the Christmas Party was held and very well attended. Our thanks to Anne for organising the evening.

The Master Plan remains in the hands of the Consultants. When the draft plan is available, we will be requesting comment from Members and the Community.

Our summer functions will include the afternoon tea for Wunta Jazz in the Gardens on February 14 and The Teddy Bears' Picnic on March 21.

My very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2004.

Billie Rowley

TREES

Giant: Ancient and historic trees is the title of a great exhibition at the Geelong Art gallery that runs until February 15. Exhibits range from Louis Buvelot's *Waterpool near Coleraine*, to black and white photographs of the *Ada Tree*, a 76 metre Mountain Ash near Powelltown, and floodlit specimens of trees in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

When you are at the Geelong Gallery pick up a pamphlet on the Johnstone Park Tree Walk. This park is just at the back of the Gallery and opposite the railway station. Among the interesting trees are Hoop Pine, Kurrajong, Judas trees and two Gallipoli Pines *Pinus Brutia* commonly known as an Aleppo Pine. The pamphlet tells the familiar story of how in 1915 at Gallipoli a soldier picked up a cone from the Lone Pine and on his arrival home in Warrnambool gave it to his aunt Mrs Emma Gray of Grassmere. Four seedlings were raised from the seeds of that cone. One was planted in Wattle Park, Melbourne, one at the Shrine of Remembrance, one at The Sisters and the fourth tree was planted in the Warrnambool Gardens on 23 January 1934. Today it is a fine specimen to the south of the lake. It is on the register of significant trees.

Fifty years after the battle of Lone Pine, about 150 second generation plants from seeds collected at the Shrine were distributed by Legacy as Living Memorials. The pines in Johnstone Park south of the Bandstand are two of these and date from 1965. In 1989 legacy made a further 1000 seedlings available to schools and other interested organisations.

The battle of Lone Pine was fought between August 6th and 10th 1915. Turkish deaths were estimated at between five and six thousand and Australian deaths 2277. The Lone Pine was also destroyed.

THE BATS

Well it looks like the saga of the bats is over - for the moment any way.

Even though the bats were an exciting attraction to many who visited, we are pleased to report that they have had their holiday in the Warrnambool Gardens and seem to have moved on.

The first recording on 14 March 2003 reported 25 bats in a single palm tree. The highest count was 444 on the 17 July, and the last number, reported to the 'Friends' was 120 on 14 Nov 03. There were a few babies and we were advised that we would have to wait until March 04 to encourage them to find alternative accommodation, when the babies were old enough, however by mid December there were no bats to be seen.

Fortunately the damage to the palms and neighbouring trees has been minimal and we have been



Photo courtesy Angela Milne - The Standard

CURATORS DAY

On Sunday 9th November about 100 people came to enjoy afternoon tea in the Gardens and remember the contribution of past curators.

William Scoborio planted a Hoop Pine in memory of his great grandfather Charles Scoborio, who retired in 1906 after forty years as curator.

Jane Furey, great granddaughter of William Donald who succeeded Scoborio and served from 1906 to 1931 represented the Donald family. During William Donald's curatorship his wife and daughters at times served afternoon tea in the gardens. Jane was able to offer guests scones and fruit cake baked to her great grandmother's recipes.

Music was provided by John MacInnes and the Two's Company Ensemble and tours of the Gardens took place throughout the afternoon led by the "Guiding Friends"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2004

February	Saturday 14th 2004	Wunta : Jazz in the Gardens
March	Sunday 21st 2004	Teddy Bears Picnic
April	Date to be set	Mums and babies day
May	Basket lunch	
Caroline Blackman (date to be confirmed)		

Guided walks in the Gardens Sundays 2.30 pm as listed

February	8 and 28
March	14 and 28
April	11 and 25
May	9 and 23

Botanic Gardens: Engaging their Communities.

This was the theme of the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand 2003 Congress, held at Geelong, over five days in October.

There were four strands of which I attended Heritage Planning and Protection. The others were Conservation and Science, Community Networking and Horticulture/Arboriculture.

Dr Peter Wyse Jackson is secretary of Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Its mission is to build and maintain a world network of botanic gardens for plant conservation. He told us there are 2204 botanic gardens in 153 countries, and a new garden is proposed, on average, once a week. For more information try their web site. www.bgci.org

Ray Tonkin of Heritage Victoria presented a challenging view of heritage and the relationship between natural and cultural heritage that botanic gardens span. He regards the Australian landscape as mostly cultural. The white people are no more or less part of the natural environment than the aboriginal people. Humans are part of the ecology. In what he describes as a public policy war between the natural and cultural environmentalists it is essential that advocates get their acts together to preserve the **best** of our heritage. He referred us to Tim Flannery *The Future Eaters* and Douglas Porter *The Practice of Sustainable Development*.

Several presentations dealt with developing conservation and management plans. That of Centennial Parklands, Sydney is available at www.cp.nsw.gov.au/cmp Warrnambool's approach to the review of its master plan seems to be similar to those presented, but we need to acknowledge the site existed long before 1866.

Speakers emphasised that maintenance alone is not enough. We must have active management of our gardens.

The final two days of the Congress involved workshops and field trips. The field trips were to the Anglesea Heathlands and the Goldfields - Ballarat and Bunninyong.

I was only able to attend on one day. It was an excellent programme with quality presentations, and the organisers and all concerned should be congratulated.

Pat Varley.

October 2003

Ballarat Botanic Gardens is the location of a new memorial, the Nation's first monument to prisoners of war (POWs). It commemorates the 34,737 Australians held prisoner during the two world wars and the Boer war and Korean war.

The monument is located in the south of the Gardens and consists of a wall of black granite 130m long on which the names of the POWs are engraved. They appear in alphabetical order without reference to rank. There are also six standing stones of Port Fairy basalt, which bear the names of the 42 countries in which prisoners were held.

The design is by Peter Blizzard. The work took six years to complete costing \$2 million. No comprehensive list of POWs existed when the project was first proposed, so it stands as a tribute both to those who were prisoners, and to the dedicated group of Ballarat citizens who worked to achieve it. The Committee accepts that the list may not be complete and welcomes further information. Provision has been made for the addition of more names.

A crowd estimated at 10,000 attended the opening on Friday 6 February. Among them were many of the 2000 ex-POWs who still survive. The Governor-General Michael Jeffrey and Premier Steve Bracks also attended.

The Chief of the Defence Force General Peter Cosgrove officially opened the monument and paid tribute to the POWs, and to the determination of those who would not allow the dead to be forgotten.

**FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL
BOTANIC GARDENS INC.**

A0032902E

President

Mrs Billie Rowley (03) 5561 1583

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

Judy Phillips (03) 5562 3320

Marie Johnstone (03) 5562 3238

Isobel Jones (03) 5568 1076

Anne Kelly (03) 5562 4982

Mandy King (03) 5562 0343

Lorraine Richardson (03) 5565 1217

Billie Rowley (03) 5561 1583

Pat Varley (03) 5562 4800

Kathy Wicherson (03) 5562 1436

Growing Friends Lorraine Richardson

Guided Tours Isobel Jones

Newsletter Editor Marigold Curtis

Newsletter Publisher Mandy King

Historian Marie Johnstone

Functions Anne Kelly

Publicity Jean Fitzpatrick
Tricia Houghton

Plant research Pat Varley

Public Officer Billie Rowley

Correspondence:

Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc.
P.O. Box 1190
Warrnambool 3280

Email: amandaking@datafast.net.au

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.

February 2004

NEWS FROM THE GARDENS

Growers Report

The Growing Friends have been busy attending to the fruit trees, weeding and mulching before the dry summer months. The drip system established last year is now working well.

Marigold has dug up lots of bulbs to sell to 'Friends'. There are many varieties of jonquils, daffodils and Peruvian lilies. Please ring her on 5567 6316 if you are interested in ordering some — proceeds to the Friends.

Guiding Friends

The Guiding Friends have been on duty at the gardens on every second Sunday as usual, and visitors have been coming in twos and threes, mostly being locals or people from the surrounding areas who have been meaning to visit for years. At this time of the year the gardens look beautiful, cool and green and obviously inviting to the numerous groups of people who are picnicking in the shade of our lovely trees. We are thrilled to see the gardens being used so much by what seems to be family groups.

Marigold took a delightful group of about thirty year 2 and 3 from Kings College for an excursion around the gardens in December. Marigold reports that they were very interested in all she had to tell them and asked and answered questions with great enthusiasm. Everyone went home with a packet or two of quickly maturing seeds. An oak tree was given to the school from the Friends. Marigold feels there is a lack, on a day like this, of a place for the children to park their back packs, water bottles etc.—maybe a table and some seats?

THE CANNON

In its February 2004 Newsletter, Warrnambool and District Historical Society has an item on "Warrnambool Guns" containing information from "Victoria's Guns" by Major Bill Billet.

The Cannon in the Botanic Gardens is a Carron 32 Pounder Smooth Bore Muzzle, number 80837, made in 1813 at the Carron Factory in Scotland—one of seven known to have survived.