



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

A0032902E



Issue No. 35

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2004

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Report

We have had some wins and some losses over the last few months. It was disappointing that we had to cancel our mini conference, but elections, music festivals and bike races provided some stiff competition. We will rethink the concept and the timing, and try again.

In contrast the theatre night and supper organised in cooperation with Rotary Club of Warrnambool Central, was a huge success, both socially and financially. Thanks to all who contributed.

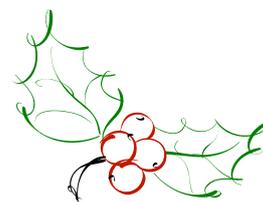
It has been great to see more activity in the Gardens involving young children. A group of Grade one children from Warrnambool Primary school spent a sunny morning enjoying the environment, the plants and the birds. A second event for toddlers and tiny tots was most successful, attracting over seventy children and their carers. This event was run in conjunction with Diploma of Children's Services students from South West TAFE.

What the Gardens offer in the way of stimulating activities for children, was demonstrated to forty teachers from across the state who attended a child care conference in Warrnambool late in October.

Our links with regional botanic gardens and the RBGM, have been strengthened, thanks to Marigold Curtis, who arranged for the collection and delivery of several Mexican Hand trees *Chiranthodendron pentadactylon*. Thank you Marigold for your energy and enthusiasm. Thank you too, to the growing friends who work throughout the year to provide plants for our plant sale.

Roy and I recently drove up the Newell Highway to Brisbane. At present the Jacaranda trees are in full bloom in northern NSW. Many avenues combine the blue Jacaranda with the gold of the Silky Oaks. They are magnificent. Thanks Guilfoyle, for the Jacaranda, even if Warrnambool's winds are a challenge to the two trees we have in our Gardens, and thanks also for the design that gives pleasure to so many locals and visitors alike.

Pat Varley
November 2004



MAIN PROJECTS FOR 2004 – 2005

GAMES IN THE GARDENS

For the second time this year the 'Friends' combined with the South West TAFE child studies department to present a range of activities for pre school children in the Gardens. The first occasion was in the autumn, so this time, rose petals replaced autumn leaves for the toddlers to revel in. About 70 children together with parents and carers took part. First year students in the Diploma of Children's Services planned and presented a variety of activities. The Friends served the grown ups with tea and biscuits, while the children enjoyed fresh fruit and drank water. Mark and Jayne Toleman from Western District Fruit Supply donated the fruit, South West Water provided a water dispenser and Marie, Anne, Pat and Marigold brought rose petals and served drinks.

THE GROWING FRIENDS held their plant sale during November but were disappointed that so few people came because of bad weather. They had prepared a huge number of plants and still made \$260 on the day. As there are many small plants left they are happy to sell them to any of your friends. Please ring Lorraine Richardson or Judi Phillips and a time can be arranged to meet at the depot.

THE GUIDING FRIENDS

The Victorian Association of TAFE Child Care Studies Teachers held their annual conference in Warrnambool on 21st-22nd October. Paul Jennings was the key note speaker. On the second afternoon they split into two groups, each of about 25 people and visited the coast and the gardens to share what the environment offers as a teaching resource. Pat and Marigold acted as guides. The weather was sunny and the groups so enthusiastic. They were involved in estimating the height of the palm trees and the girth of the Monterey Cyprus and even played 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' on the Bridge over the lake. The Association presented the Friends with a framed certificate of appreciation for their contribution.

On 22nd October a delightful group of about 50 grade one children from Jamieson Street State School, together with some parents and teachers spent about two hours in the gardens. I very much enjoyed taking part in this tour. Their thank you card was a delight.

Pat.



PLANTS OF INTEREST

Cedrus brevifolia

Cyprus Cedar

This beautiful cedar is now planted in the north-west corner of the gardens where it should get plenty of sunshine and shelter. The Friends bought the small tree from the Wurruna Nursery near Geelong and it makes a wonderful addition to the pinetum. It is a native of Cyprus and has been used in grand parks and gardens in the past. Growing to some 10 metres, its blue-green branches spread out elegantly, bearing pale green, smooth pine cones.

Marigold Curtis

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2004-05

2004

- 10th Dec. 6pm. Christmas Drinks for members at the Rotunda. Please come and enjoy a drink with the 'Friends'. For catering purposes could you RSVP one of the committee.

2005

- Caroline Blackman Luncheon 24th Feb 2005. To be held at the Warrnambool race course, \$35. (details will be forwarded)
- 3YB Teddy Bears & Fairies Picnic 20th March 2005

Guided walks in the Gardens second and fourth Sundays 2.30 pm
Nov 28 Dec 12

Remember that if you would like to organise a group 'tour of the gardens', for your family or business, please contact Isobel Jones or another committee person. Most times can be accommodated.

CHRISTMAS DRINKS IN THE GARDENS



Friday 10th December
6pm.

An evening to meet other members or catch up on 'old friends'

Come down to the Rotunda

For nibbles and drinks

**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.

November 2004

COMPUTER NOTES

The Friends in conjunction with the WCC are preparing a web site on which the Gardens and Friends information will be posted.

You will be able to find the site by going to the Warrnambool Council site

www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au and clicking on Parks and Gardens.

We will put the newsletter on the web along with diary dates and general information about the gardens

If you would like to read our news letter on line we can contact members by email and let you know when it has been posted. If you would like to use this service could you email me on aking@eftel.net.au Alternately you could have the newsletter sent directly to your email address.

The Roma Street Parkland

In a project not unlike changing swords into ploughshares, Brisbane has transformed its Roma Street railway yards in the centre of the city into a spectacular parkland.

The 16 hectare parkland has been developed over the past five years. It claims to be the world's largest subtropical garden in a city centre. It includes fern valleys, lakes and lawns, mature trees and barbeque areas, children's playgrounds and a licensed café. The "Spectacle Garden", a garden within the parkland has themed terraces, and a topiary maze together with a fine display of colourful subtropical foliage and flowering plants. Waterfalls, fountains and an art walk with a collection of commissioned sculptures, add interest for both adults and children and there is still open space to kick a foot ball or throw a Frisbee.

The Committee wish all members
a very happy and safe Christmas
We would like to thank everyone
for their support during 2004 and
look forward to many good times
to come in 2005

