



# FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

A0032902E



Issue No. 55

Autumn 2010

NEWSLETTER

[www.wbgardens.com.au](http://www.wbgardens.com.au)

---

## Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Team Update

Works have begun on the front gate bed with a permanent metal edge installed to clearly delineate between the annual plantings and the shrub/tree bed. This has allowed increased mulching of the front gate bed.

The dead *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (Lawson False Cypress) has been recently removed with majority of the timber being donated to the Triton Wood Workers for their special projects.

The dead bamboo located outside of the ladies toilet has been removed with a new garden to emerge over the winter.

The team has had numerous compliments over the annual displays and the colours of the Dahlia's have again proven a winner.

750 King Alfred Daffodils have recently been planted underneath the Money Tree and should provide a great display in Spring.

The second stage of the Water Wise bed is progressing well with plant material being ordered for planting in May/June.

With the expansion of the indigenous bed additional plantings have been made with Correas, Patersonias, Grass trees and Indigofera, which have all been supplied by SGAP.

If you haven't been to the gardens for a while come on in and see a team member and view the work that has been happening first hand.

Hope to see you soon.

John, Ros and Mark

## AN UPDATE ON THE GUN IN THE GARDENS

A year ago in Newsletter No 51 we reported on the historical significance of our Gun and plans to conserve it.

*‘Warrnambool City Council has been successful in gaining a grant of \$13,600 from Heritage Victoria for the conservation of the cannon and stand. While the cannon is in good condition the wooden carriage and slide is in poor condition and deteriorating fast’*

It was decided that the wooden carriage should be removed to a protected location, probably at Flagstaff Hill, while the cannon would rest on a temporary stand until a reproduction carriage and slide was built.

The wheels of heritage turn slowly, but on February 1<sup>st</sup> the cannon was lifted from its carriage and placed on a concrete stand by courtesy of Keppel Prince. Heritage Victoria arranged for the old stand to be X rayed (funded from the grant) to determine any weakness that should be addressed prior to its removal, which to protect it, needs to be very soon.

So, now for the reproduction stand. Unfortunately the heritage grant is only for conservation and cannot be applied to reproduction. Fortunately there are many heritage conscious people and groups in Warrnambool who, recalling their childhood in the Gardens, are keen to see the old cannon back on a wooden stand and accessible to the public. The Triton Woodworkers have taken up the challenge and together with the Friends have been successful in sourcing timber for the project. This will not be Burmese Teak, which was probably an inexpensive timber at the time the original stand was manufactured in the Royal Carriage Department of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, U.K. In our reproduction, locally grown Monterey Cypress is being sourced and will be manufactured under the silver ball of the Fletcher Jones factory in Warrnambool. We are assured that it is a suitably durable timber.

The next challenge is to obtain the metal fittings. The Friends will appeal for assistance to fund the project, when they have an estimate of the total cost,

Where exactly did the Gardens gun travel in its early days? Most likely it served as a ship’s gun until about 1850. It is possible it saw service in the Napoleonic Wars. It may have been included in the artillery imported to the colony of Victoria from Britain in the 1850, by which time it was obsolete as a naval gun. It came to Warrnambool in 1867 or 1872 and was placed in the Gardens in 1910. Tracing its locations in the intervening years is quite a challenge. Members of the Warrnambool and District Historical Society have kept the Gun and the Gardens in mind when reading old papers and documents and we thank them for their assistance. One of their “finds” relating to entertainment in the Gardens is included in this Newsletter

### **100 Years ago: Entertainment in the Gardens**

The perfect weather prevailing last night, induced a large number of residents to spend the evening at the Botanical Gardens where the Town Band provided a most enjoyable musical performance and display of moving pictures. The latter were supplied by the Empire Picture Company and formed a very interesting and varied series which included the fine dramatic pictures “Shepherd of the Alps” “Pirates” “Engulfed in Quicksands” also the following comic scenes “Bridget on Strike” “Cohen at Coney Island” “The Invisible Thief” and scenic views entitled “Glimpses of the Far East” and “Hambury”. The band programme was as follows – March “The Fourth Brigade” (Greenwood) : solo polka “The Virtuoso” (solo by the bandmaster) : waltz “Garland of Roses” : march by Rayner : fantasia : “the Diamond Star” (Greenwood).

***The Warrnambool Standard 22/10/1909***

## PLANTS IN OUR BOTANIC GARDENS

*Dietes robinsoniana* "The Wedding Flower"

This handsome plant with its tall strappy leaves and beautiful fragrant flowers, was given to us some 15 years ago by John Hawker. It comes from Lord Howe Island which is strange when you learn that other *Dietes* with the same sword-shaped leaves and dramatic flowers are indigenous to South Africa.

When John visited us to speak at our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations he was dismayed to learn his plant had been vandalised and very nearly lost. However, the team under John Sheely had been able to save it and had grown 20 cuttings successfully, even taking seeds from the flowers - much to John's delight. He recommended distributing them to botanical gardens along the coast. So we could well see them growing in places like Port Fairy and Portland which would be their preferred location rather than inland.

*Marigold Curtis*

### THE LONE PINE

Recently my attention was drawn to the headline in a regional paper "Drought claims lone pine" The article continued:-

*"A small piece of history from the Lexton and Waubra district has succumbed to the ongoing drought in recent years. Within the Lexton Toll Bar Park a pine tree has stood dominating the landscape for many to admire. A plaque located nearby records that the tree was grown in 1968 from a seed supposedly descended from the Lone Pine at Gallipoli"*  
(Pyrenees Advocate, Feb 26, 2010)

As ANZAC day approaches many stories of courage and sacrifice in battle will be recalled and retold. The battle of Lone Pine is one such story. The scene of the battle was a heavily fortified plateau on which stood one solitary pine tree. The battle, part of the Gallipoli campaign in the first World War, was fought between August 6th and 10th 1915. Turkish deaths were estimated at between five and six thousand and Australian deaths at 2277. The Lone Pine was also destroyed

The Lone Pine in Warrnambool's Botanic Gardens is one of Australia's most notable trees. It was grown from the seed of a pine cone collected at the battle of Lone Pine, and is a living memorial to that terrible battle.

After the battle, Sergeant Keith McDowell, 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. It was twelve years later that she planted some of the seeds. Five seedlings were raised from the seeds of that cone. One died, 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 in January 1934. Today it is a fine specimen to the south of the lake. It is on the register of significant trees, *Pinus Brutia* commonly known as an Alepo Pine.

Most of the second generation 'lone pines' in this state have been grown from seed from the tree at the Shrine. We had no record of trees descended from the Warrnambool pine until we were told of a tree at Ballangeich grown by the late Alan Strain. Since then, two of our members, David Shimmin and Lou Hollis have been successful in propagating seedlings. Perhaps we could offer a replacement for the drought victim at Lexton.

*Pat Varley*

## **FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.**

A0032902E

### **President**

Anne Lynch (03) 5562 1303

### **Vice-president**

Pat Varley (03) 5562 4800

### **Secretary**

Mandy King (03) 55620343

### **Minute Secretary**

Laurel Myers (03) 55617571

### **Treasurer**

Kathy Wicherson (03) 5562 1436

### **Committee**

Judi Phillips (03) 5562 3320

Isobel Jones (03) 5568 1076

Marigold Curtis (03) 5567 6316

Marie Johnstone (03) 5562 3238

Jean Fitzpatrick (03) 5562 3447

Billie Rowley (03) 55611583

### **Correspondence:**

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

Email: [friends@wbgardens.com.au](mailto:friends@wbgardens.com.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.

Membership: Payable at/or by the AGM  
July 2009

April 2010

## **GUIDED WALKS**

Guided walks are conducted by our volunteer  
guides every Second and Fourth Sunday  
of the month commencing at 2.30pm,  
weather permitting

Walks can be organised on request

Walks proceed from the main entrance gate in  
Cockman Street

### **Stop Press**

Lou Hollis was delighted at the suggestion that one of her  
“babies” might replace the tree at Lexton. A letter to the  
Pyrenees Advocate with the proposal that the FOWBG  
donate a tree, grown from a seed of the tree in the Gardens,  
brought an enthusiastic and immediate response. Judy  
Martin, a member of the Lexton Progress Association rang  
to say, “Thanks for thinking of us. We really do appreciate  
it”.

Another of our members, Janet Macdonald has also been  
successful in growing seedlings from our significant tree.  
All praise to their green fingers.

## **MORNING IN THE GARDENS WITH JOHN**

John’s ‘Curator day’ is held on the first Wednesday of the  
month at 10.30 am until noon. Each month John organises  
an interesting and educational experience. Come along to  
the gardens, we meet at the growing area at the back of the  
curators cottage.

We have a lot of fun and would love to see you there and  
bring a friend along.

Calender of dates is attached

## **'Scoborio's Shed'**

The Friends approached Warrnambool Central Rotary Club  
to assist with the completion of the sandstone shed that is  
located between the cottage and the work area. The work is  
being carried out as the newsletter goes to print.

It is planned that the friends will take up residence after it is  
completed.

This will be our new meetings home and will be open for  
other occasional get togethers. We truly hope that this open  
environment situated at the gardens will create a culture of  
involvement for our members.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the  
hard work undertaken by the Rotary boys.

### **Web sites of interest**

This one is amazing <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> If you are  
interested in history you could spend many hours here.

Aust Nat Botanic Gardens [www.anbg.gov.au/anbg/](http://www.anbg.gov.au/anbg/) a good  
place to start

Nat Library of Aust [www.nla.gov.au/oz/genelist.html](http://www.nla.gov.au/oz/genelist.html)

And State library of Aust. <http://gazettebeta.slv.vic.gov.au/>

### **WBG WEB SITE**

The Newsletter is posted on our web site

Visit the site by copying

[www.wbgardens.com.au](http://www.wbgardens.com.au) into your web browser and enjoy.

**Save a tree** and have your newsletter sent by email. Please  
forward an email to the friends at [friends@wbgardens.com.au](mailto:friends@wbgardens.com.au) and  
your details will be safely saved and only used for this purpose.

*Mandy King Secretary*

## **Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Calendar of Events 2010**

**All days will commence at 10.30am and finish at 12.00pm.  
Please meet at the fruit trees at 10.30am.  
Days will be held rain, hail or shine.**

<b>January 6, 2010</b>  <b>Holiday</b>	<b>February 3, 2010</b>  <b>Maintenance of beds</b>	<b>March 3, 2010</b>  <b>Tree planting</b>	<b>April 7, 2010</b>  <b>Bulb lifting at Marigold's Property</b>
<b>May 5, 2010</b>  <b>Bulb planting</b>	<b>June 2, 2010</b>  <b>Clean up</b>	<b>July 7, 2010</b>  <b>Fruit tree pruning</b>	<b>August 4, 2010</b>  <b>Propagation</b>
<b>September 1, 2010</b>  <b>Preparation for plant sale</b>	<b>October 6, 2010</b>  <b>Annual bed preparation</b>	<b>November 3, 2010</b>  <b>Annual planting</b>	<b>December 1, 2010</b>  <b>Maintenance of annual beds</b>

**The above activities are a guide only and may be subject to change depending upon staff availability and the needs of the Botanic gardens**