



# FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

A0032902E



Issue No. 60

Winter 2011

## NEWSLETTER

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

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### ANNUAL REPORTS – 1010-1011

Our annual general meeting was held on 21<sup>st</sup> July at the Southwest Institute of TAFE conference centre. More than forty members and guests attended. President Pat Varley and Curator John Sheely reported on events of the last year. Their reports are included in this newsletter. All office bearers and committee members indicated their willingness to continue in their positions and as there were no other nominations, they were reappointed. Thank you to each long serving 'friend' for their continuing contribution to the Gardens.

Guest speaker Trevor Bullen gave an illustrated talk on his recent tour of significant gardens in Europe. He was particularly interested in trends in horticulture, noting that Australia tended to follow along. His breathtaking pictures of gardens and nurseries delighted and engaged his audience.

The meeting and talk were followed by a light lunch which provided the opportunity to share ideas, ambitions and plans for the future.

### OUR SPRING GARDEN DAY

Our Spring Garden Day and Plant Sale will be held on Sunday September 18.

We look forward to a variety of plants and other produce to stock our stalls.

Herbs are always popular, as are the colourful azaleas and other potted plants.

The produce stall is seeking jams, jellies, pickles, and vegetables. This year we hope to have some second hand gardening books, bulbs, post cards and pens to sell. Do an early 'spring clean' and see what you can donate. All goods can be left at the depot with John, or with a member of the committee.



## TILTING AT WIND MILLS

These last few weeks the Committee have been active researching the well and the windmill that once provided the water supply for the Gardens. We have submitted an application to Heritage Victoria for a grant to conserve and display the well as a continuation of the water wise garden. Our long term aim is to reproduce the wind mill. We put out a call by email for information about the windmill and have been given some valuable sources and suggestions. Thank you to all who have helped. By next newsletter we hope to collate our material and entertain you with the story of water, wells and windmills in Warrnambool.



This is our only photos c1886

For those not on email we are still looking for information, do call anyone on the committee.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT JULY 2011

Warrnambool is so fortunate in its heritage The Gardens are one of its treasures. They are recognised as significant at local state and national level and are on the register of the National Trust the National Estate and Victorian Heritage register.

The Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens was established 22 years ago with the aim of preserving and promoting our Guilfoyle designed garden.

Over the years members have shown remarkable loyalty and persistence and some of the original committee have served for the full 22 years. At present we have 158 members and a committee of 12.

The committee meets monthly with an average attendance of ten.

This year for the first time, we have had the luxury of meeting in our own room which we call Scoborio's shed. This derelict old sandstone building at the rear of the curators' cottage was made available to us by WCC. With the assistance of Warrnambool Central Rotary, the gardens staff and the City Council it has been converted to a meeting room, office and repository for our records and books. These are currently being recorded and classified by two of our members.

Communication with members is maintained through our website [www.wbgardens.com.au](http://www.wbgardens.com.au) and our quarterly newsletter. Our last Newsletter (Issue No 59) was posted to all members. About one third of our members have an email address and have indicated that they do not need a hard copy. The remaining members will still receive their copy in the post.

The guiding Friends continue to offer free guided walks at 2.30 pm on the second and fourth Sunday of each month and are also available for special events, school groups and organised tours. This year Laurel Myers worked with our curator to upgrade our guiding notes and welcomed four new enthusiastic guides who have joined us.

Our annual Spring Garden Day in September was well attended and supported by numerous local businesses and the team at the Gardens.

The highlight of the year was the reinstatement of the gun in the Gardens on a new stand constructed by The Triton Woodworkers club with the generous assistance of many local residents and a donation from the Archie and Hilda Graham Foundation

Access to the Gardens has changed significantly since the closure of Cockman Street two years ago. Council committed to provide adequate signs as part of the "Black Spot" funding. The Friends have had discussions with Council regarding the upgrade of signs directing traffic to the Gardens from the major highways. These should be in place in the near future. Signs at the Gardens are also due for upgrades.

Our 'Lone Pine' of Gallipoli fame is on the register of significant trees. Its provenance has been well researched. It was grown by Mrs Gray from a cone brought back by Sgt McDowall. This year a seedling grown by one of our members, Lou Hollis, was presented to the Lexton Progress Association. It replaces a victim of the drought, a pine that previously grew in Toll Bar Park Lexton.

So much for our achievements, but we have also planned for the future.

We have an informal meeting on the first Wednesday of each month and are organising a series of talks to engage members in the coming year.

Our major project however is all about water

The water wise garden, developed in cooperation with Wannon Water, is an introduction to water, plants and soils. We have visions of extending the garden westward to incorporate the existing well and a replica windmill, to provide an educational display that tells the story of water over the years. The well exists – fifty feet deep, circular and solid. We need information about the windmill which pumped water to the lake in the 1880s. It may have been constructed locally by John Esam.

On reflection, the highlight of the year has been our interaction with the community.

Our links with TAFE, Triton Woodworkers, Rotary, and the Society for growing Australian plants have been rewarding and encouraging. The enthusiastic cooperation of the team at the Gardens makes us welcome. The fellowship of the committee and garden lovers in general, is rewarding and I thank them all for their support. Two 'Friends' I will mention specifically

Kathy Wicherson, a long time member and past treasurer, died during the year. We miss her very much.

The other person is our secretary Mandy King. Without her skills we would be very limited in our access to information via the net and our links with other Friends Groups in Australia and New Zealand.

Thankyou, to all garden lovers and to all who respect our heritage. And very special thanks to our Curator and to our Secretary.

Pat Varley  
President.

## WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS TEAM UPDATE JULY 2011

It would be remiss of me not to mention first up the support of the FOWBG, which is greatly appreciated.

The Warrnambool Botanic Gardens (WBG) team has been busy again this year.

Projects undertaken by the team over the past year include:

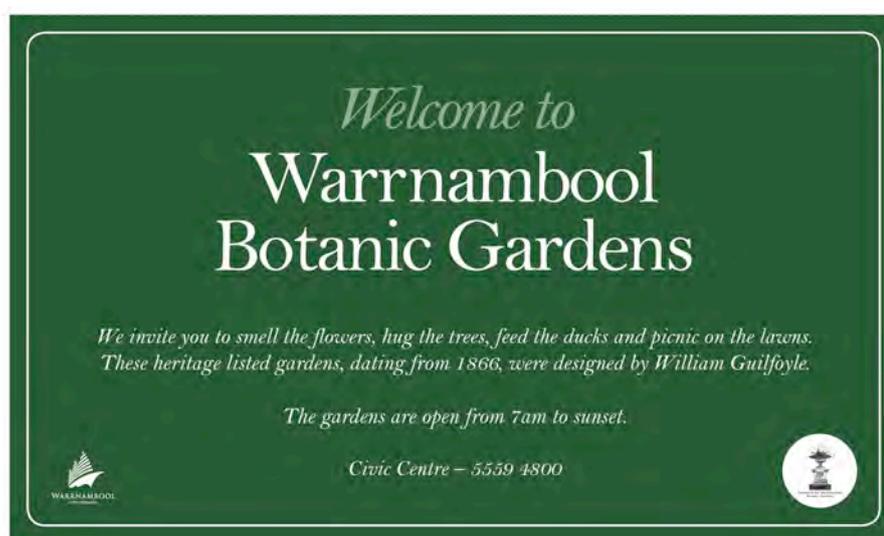
- Removal of the Bamboo in front of the ladies toilet and planting of a display garden.
- Planting and maintaining of annual displays within the display beds.
- Boxing of the giraffe swing and commencement of new plantings around this area.
- Installation of an 'access for all' drinking fountain adjacent to the giraffe swing.
- Extension of the bore line to complete the ring main – northeast corner.
- Stage 2 of the waterwise garden has been completed.
- Planting and mulching of specimen trees in lawn areas.
- Planting of Pines within the Pinetum – material sourced from Bill Funk and grown on in the WBG nursery
- Continued mulching of beds.
- Renovating garden beds in accordance with Master Plan.
- Thinning of the water lilies – western end.
- Installation of drainage to redirect pond overflow from the path network into stormwater.
- Creation of a new 'main' entrance from Botanic Road that aligns the entrance way with the bridge.
- Under planting of trees within shrub beds.
- Development of new garden beds where 'dead' areas are a maintenance issue.
- Sourcing of Acanthus species to make up our first plant collection.

We again look forward to working with the Friends in achieving improvements within the gardens in the coming year.

I look forward to seeing you all at the gardens over the coming year and would encourage you to grab a team member and have a chat.

Happy gardening!

John Sheely  
Curator  
Warrnambool Botanic Gardens



**Myrtle Rust (*Uredo rangelii*) –  
notes from a talk given to FOWBG by Donna Ellis**

- Myrtle Rust (MR) found originally on Myrtus and has a South American origin.
- MR identified in Australia in April 2010 (native nursery in Nth NSW).
- In November 2010 authorities realised it was out and not contained.
- In December 2010 identified in Brisbane BG.
- MR affects MYRTACEAE family and not just the plant Myrtus.
- It is a fungal disease that likes soft new growth.
- The rust can start as small purple spots on leaves. The mature spores are bright yellow. Older infection is duller yellow.
- Native nurseries are highly susceptible – most susceptible species to date is *Eucalyptus globulus*.
- Role we can play – get to know what it looks like – MR alert sheet handed around (produced by DPI NSW).
- Its current location is believed to be 300kms north of the Vic border.
- The Otway's, Gippsland & Wilsons Prom have been identified as potential hot spots for MR.
- The potential for devastation is huge!
- Within the Melbourne region 40 odd nurseries are being monitored.
- Mancozeb has been approved for use but removal of stock and burning is advised.
- MR can kill whole plants – depending on age and condition etc.
- Cultivars appear more susceptible.
- It in doubt – find out what it is – photograph it and send the photo to DPI – don't send specimens!
- **Exotic Plant Pest Hotline 1800 084 881.**

BGANZ: - In March the Australian National Botanic Gardens (ANBG) held a national workshop focusing on options to manage the outbreak of the South American fungal disease, Myrtle Rust. Australia's leading plant and fungal scientists joined industry and government agencies to discuss the threat to botanic gardens but also the broader issue of managing the exotic disease in the Australian bush, national parks and reserves.

Below is the link to the ANBG's website containing the outcomes of the workshop and up-to-date information that may be of interest to you. The link will also be posted on the BGANZ website under the resources tab.

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/myrtle-rust/index.html>

[National Myrtle Rust Workshop - Implications for \*ex situ\* collections](#) - Thursday 10 March 2011

[PowerPoint Presentations from National Workshop](#) - 10 March 2011

[NSW Primary Industry Biosecurity Myrtle Rust website](#)

[Queensland Primary Industries Myrtle Rust website](#)

[Australian Government AQIS Q&A website](#)

[Australian Network for Plant Conservation \(ANPC\) - Myrtle Rust page](#)

[ANPC's Myrtle Rust Resource Links](#)

## GUIDED WALKS

### **A guide often learns more than the guided.**

Two people joined me on the regular walk Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010. They were from Lakes Entrance and touring in their campervan. They were staying at the Figtree Camping Park.

When they asked about things to do, they were directed to the Standard column and so became aware of the Gardens Walk.

From them I gained the following information.

Trafalgar State School opened in 1879.

First enrolments were around 50 children about half of whom had previously attended school in Warrnambool.

One of the walkers was teaching at Trafalgar in its centenary year when the early school records were put on display. He was puzzled by the large number of children who came from Warrnambool, as was I.

The railway had reached Warrnambool the previous year (1878). Perhaps the workers moved to Trafalgar, or was there a new land development, or a butter factory, or...?

In May 1878 Robert Watson, Engineer in charge of the middle section of the railway works, was investigating Lochs Creek, east of Trafalgar, as a site for a station... but he did not care for it because of the poor gradient... He wrote a memo to the Engineer in Chief, "There is a more suitable site..." The site recommended for a station was Trafalgar.

Workers and their families went to where the work was in the 1870s and it seems likely there was quite a movement of railway workers from Warrnambool to Trafalgar

## 60TH EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER

As you can see at the top of the page, this is our 60th edition.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Marigold Curtis for her diligent work in producing an amazingly informative newsletter.

Because of her initial work and methodical recollections, she has preserved a history of the life in the gardens and the work that has been carried out by the Friends since July 1992. The first copy reports on our first AGM. The first 17 editions were produced on Marigold's typewriter and the logo was added with a rubber stamp. There is not a 'white out' mark to be seen and Marigold insisted on double spacing after every full stop.

Times change. For better or for worse we have now introduced the computer.

Our newsletter will go out by email from now on, to those who have given us their email address. Our other members will receive their newsletter by 'Snail mail' in the way the last 60 have been distributed.

On this note we hope you continue to read our newsletter. Make sure your computer partner lets you know it has arrived at their in box, and you now have the benefit of easily distributing our news to your friends.

Our eternal gratitude Marigold for you devotion.

**FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL  
BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.**

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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.

Membership: Payable at/or by the AGM

July 2011

**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

**DATE TO REMEMBER**

**Spring Garden Day**

Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

This is the time to start to pot up herbs and plants for  
sale. It is also the season for jams jellies and pickles,  
which sell well on our produce stall. Can you suggest  
any other novelties or crafts.

Donations can be left with John at the depot, or contact  
any committee member.

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**MORNING IN THE GARDENS WITH JOHN**

The committee have been running a morning in the  
Gardens with John over the last couple of years. We  
are finding that people are unable to physically help  
within the gardens so we are going to revise this  
morning.

We will have guest speakers, morning teas and walks  
around the gardens. The venue will be Scoborio's Shed  
on the first Wednesday of the month at 11.00am.  
We met on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and Donna Ellis talked about  
Myrtle Rust. Our next meeting 7th September will  
focus on preparation for the Plant Sale 18<sup>th</sup> September.

We urge members to come along and bring  
contributions so we can organise helpers and stalls.

**WEBSITE**

The Association of Friends of Botanic Garden web site.  
<http://www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/>

Other sites of interest are

Good site to watch if you are wanting to apply for a Grant  
<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/grants>

Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) has recently  
launched a new on-line campaign

<http://www.plantsfortheplanet.com/>

RBGM New Blog site

<http://botanicgardensmelbourne.wordpress.com/>