



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

A0032902E

Issue No. 67

Winter 2013

NEWSLETTER www.wbgardens.com.au

AGM

Invitations have been sent for this years AGM and many have replied.

A reminder in case you have mislaid your previous invitation

The meeting will commence 12 noon at the TAFE building, conference room level 3, Timor St. We will start with a short meeting and report on the years activities, induction of office bearers followed by our guest speaker, WBG's curator John Sheely who will talk on his study tour of Europe and the UK especially time spent at West Dean Gardens Sussex and Botanic Gardens & Harcourt Arboretum Oxfordshire.



It has been a fantastic learning opportunity and I am very grateful the FOWBG for their support

John expressed he is wearing his monogrammed gardens shirt and hat when ever possible. We like the product placement in this shot

This should be a very entertaining and educational talk which should not be missed. John has sent through a few brief reports and gauging by the photos our gardens should be in for a treat.

After John's presentation please stay and enjoy our committee's highly acclaimed afternoon tea.



Invitation out to tea with other international volunteers at West Dean Gardens

TREES

Warrnambool is well known for its Norfolk Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*). They feature on the city's logo. They are suited to our climate. Many have matured into magnificent specimens since they were planted as street trees more than a century ago. They have survived browsing cattle, run-away cars, roosting corellas, droughts, car parks and electric line clearances. If well cared for they should live another hundred years. . A survey in 1986 valued them at three million dollars.

Hence it is of concern that recently some of the mature trees in plantations along Raglan Parade appear to be dead or dying.

Back in 1991 Archie Graham expressed concern for the future of the pines and suggested that the city needed to spend \$50,000 a year to preserve them. In May this year Warrnambool City Council adopted 'Street Tree Planting and Management Guidelines'



Jaimeson Street from the Gardens

It is encouraging that Council has accepted the need for guidelines. It is to be hoped that it will provide a budget sufficient for their implementation.

Two extracts from the guidelines follow;

1.2. Scope

Warrnambool's trees are one of its greatest assets and the aim of these Guidelines is to provide good planning and appropriate maintenance which is vital for safe and manageable street, roadside, park and reserve trees that will provide aesthetic, material, environmental and ecological benefits to the community.

2.1.5. *Council believes reliable supply of electricity to the community is a vital service. Whilst agreeing with the necessity for safety and continuity of supply, Council believes the allocation of resources by power companies to relocating power lines underground should reflect the value of the Council's tree assets to the community. Council shall encourage underground power where ever possible.*

The Council is constrained by and in some cases responsible for implementing the Electric line clearance regulations (2010) At times there will be competing demands for foot paths, roads, gutters, powerlines and trees.



The trees missed out in the recent road work carried out in Koroit Street between Henna and Fairy Street. This involved the removal of the last few remaining Moreton Bay Fig Trees along the north side. These trees were more than 100 years old and had proved remarkably resistant to repeated pruning of their branches and restriction of their roots. They were in fact deformed as a result of frequent clearing for the electric lines – a necessary safety precaution, or an act of legally sanctioned vandalism, depending on your view. It would have been costly to retain them. It was probably inevitable that they go.

The road and footpath has been attractively reconstructed and the debate has moved to the variety of tree to be planted, **BUT** the power lines still appear to be above ground.

For the health of all our street trees it is essential that Council uses all its powers of persuasion to encourage underground power supply.

*['Street Tree Planting and Management Guidelines'](#) is available on the WCC web site.

*Archie Graham MBE (1906 – 1992) was a respected Warrnambool citizen, philanthropist and strategic thinker.

P. Varley.

THE CENTENARY OF THE ROTUNDA

The rotunda was opened in 1913 by the then Mayor, John William Younger. Our research so far has failed to find the exact date, so we have decided to celebrate at our Spring Garden Day on Sunday September 22.

The Rotunda was built by Beattie and Donaldson in 1913. One third of the cost was raised by the local community. Henri Worland recalled that;

In 1911 a sufficient sum of money was raised to erect a rotunda. The under section to be used for afternoon tea purposes and the top for the use of local bands.

Henry Worland Talks 3YB April 1947

In November 1913 council policy was that the gardens would only be let for charitable events but by Feb 1919 two picture companies were showing weekly.

After WW11 numerous functions and fundraising band recitals used the rotunda, and there were church and school picnics and fetes.

It has been an important feature of our Guilfoyle gardens, a centre for our activities and enjoyed by thousands over the years. Some might remember the outside staircase with its, “speakers’ platform”, which sadly had to be removed for safety reasons.

The Friends have repaired and refurbished the lower section from which refreshments can be served.

In an earlier newsletter we urged members to dust off their albums and bring along old photos of the Rotunda, the Cannon (cast in 1813) and other records of our heritage garden. The response has been minimal. We do have some historic photos supplied by Helen Clarke, granddaughter of Alex Donaldson. There must be many more.

We hope to have a display of photos at the centenary and feature a variety of bands to perform from the bandstand.

Did you make the connection that the cannon was cast 200 years ago this year?

Photos please. We will scan and return the originals.

Contact Mandy 55620343 or Pat 55624800 email friends@wbgardens.com.au



Photo taken in 1920 - Photo donated by Warrnambool Historical Society

MORE ABOUT THE BATS

If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit the Gardens and watch the bats, it is not too late. They were still hanging around in the large plane tree south west of the lake last weekend (22 and 23 June), as the leaves fell and the temperature fell faster and further. It was the winter equinox and the bats made me think of those other hardy souls that went for a dip in the Derwent or, closer to home, in Lady Bay to mark the event.



The bats – Grey headed Flying Foxes (*pteropus poliocephalus*) – could well be the same individuals that have been seen in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

Wildlife Management Officer John Martin reports in the latest issue of “The Gardens” (issue 97):

Individuals (bats) fitted with transmitters have been recorded as far north as Bundaberg and as far south as Melbourne.

Bats have long been the victim of bad press, associated with evil and keeping poor company with witches and vampires. In reality they play a vitally important role in the environment. They range over large areas and in their nightly search for flowers and nectar are the major pollinators of many timber and honey trees.

Health authorities recommend people avoid direct contact with bats, but they believe there is no major human health risk from flying fox colonies.



**FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL
BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.**

A0032902E

President

Pat Varley (03) 5562 4800

Vice-president

Janet Macdonald (03) 55624059

Secretary

Mandy King (03) 55620343

Treasurer

Laurel Myers (03) 55617571

Committee

Judi Phillips (03) 5562 3320

Anne Lynch (03) 5562 1303

Marigold Curtis (03) 5567 6316

Marie Johnstone (03) 5562 3238

Jean Fitzpatrick (03) 5562 3447

Billie Rowley (03) 55611583

Joan Keith (03) 55624377

Correspondence:

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

Email: 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 2013

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

Please note: If you would like to have your
Newsletter sent by email please send an
email to friends@wbgardens.com.au and we
will put you on the email list

BOOKING AN EVENT IN THE GARDENS

Are you thinking of holding an event in the Gardens. Please
go to our [web site](#) to get information and to download the
application form. You are also able to book by going to the
gardens or WCC during work hours and obtain a booking
form.

COMING EVENTS

Morning in the Gardens

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR NEXT TALK IS
THIS COMING WEDNESDAY**

Guest speaker at our first Wednesday of the month, July
3, will be Kevin Sparrow from the Society for Growing
Australian Plants.

Join us in Scoborio's shed at 11.00am.

AGM

Wednesday 24th July at 12noon

Spring Garden Day & Centenary of the Rotunda

At the Gardens Sunday September 22nd starting at
11am completion at 2pm

The Spring Garden Day is an annual event and proving
to be very popular for those wanting to find that special
plant, potted up by our members.

This year we will be asking other groups to join in
selling their wares. This in conjunction with the
celebration of the building of the Rotunda will make a
fun filled day, with lots of associated entertainment.

Warrnambool & District Historical Society - we thank
you for loaning us your photos of the gardens to be
scanned at a high resolution for our use in publications
or on the web. Two are shown in the newsletter

Membership payment

We are coming up in the world or trying to keep up.

We now have an on line [membership form](#) that you can fill
in and send to us. Then make your payment by the usual way
of Direct Payment or by sending a cheque

EFT

BSB: 083 957

Account Number: 048342632

Refer: Your Name