



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

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Maintaining and developing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden

Issue No. 69

Summer 2013

NEWSLETTER www.wbgardens.com.au

WBG Team Update December 2013

Well another year comes to a close and I certainly wonder where has that time gone?

We have been very fortunate in WBG with the rain we have received in spring. Everything is looking lush and green – well worth a visit!

We have had the pleasure of hosting a few impressive visitors of late. Sarah Wain and Jim Buckland of West Dean Gardens called in recently and strolled around the gardens.



David Glenn and Criss Canning of Lambley Nursery were here last week and the whole team benefited from their visit.

On a boasting note, we actually supplied David with 4 plants that caught his eye during our tour. The plants were:

- Acanthus mollis latifolius*
- Acanthus caroli-alexandri*
- Acanthus pubescens*
- Acanthus spinosus* 'Lady Moore'

As you can imagine sharing our *Acanthus* collection has put a big smile on my dial!

Work within WBG over the last few months included:

- Removal of self-sown material from bed 17 – the western island.



Before

After

- Unfortunately, the removal of a dying Cedar from the NE corner. On the upside, the Triton Woodworkers took the trunk of this tree and even some of the larger diameter branches were taken for potential pens. Removal of this tree has opened up a large area that will be planted out in autumn 2014.
- Work on bed 13, the big circular bed east of the arch, continues with some of the giant bamboo divisions donated to other regional BG's.
- Realignment of the curator's fence has created additional planting opportunities that will occur in early 2014.
- A variable speed control unit has been fitted to the WBG bore and will allow us to run a single tap, where previously we had to have 12-14 taps going. A huge town water saving is anticipated.
- Bulking up of the shrub beds continues with the team making use of favourable planting conditions. A lot of this bulking up material is courtesy of Ros who has been busy propagating by cuttings and division.
- The sweet pea display, much loved I might add, will be removed shortly and replaced by a gourd display. Stay tuned for this amazing display of unusual shapes and sizes.

As the year comes to an end it would be remiss of me not to heap praise on Ros and Murtle.

WBG would certainly not be where it is today without both Ros and Murtle's hard work and commitment.

Ros is actually celebrating 10 years at WBG this year. I've had the pleasure of working with Ros for the past 7 years.

Kings College year 9's have completed another year of volunteering within WBG and a big thank you to Murtle who has both supervised and encouraged this group of budding gardeners.

Finally, a big thank you to the FOWBG, particularly Pat and Mandy, for their continued support of the WBG and the WBG team. On a personal note, the support of my OS trip for professional development will always be gratefully remembered.

From the WBG team, have a safe and enjoyable Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you on the 18th December 2013 for a drink or two!

John for WBG team

Spring Garden Day

Our annual Spring Garden Day was held in brilliant sunshine on Sunday 22nd September. This year the beautiful band rotunda was the centrepiece of special celebrations, to mark the centenary of its construction.

What better way to say happy birthday to a band rotunda than with bands. In the weeks prior to the event, the call went out to local musical groups to join in the party.

The Warrnambool Pipes and Drums and the Warrnambool City Band, long time favourites with Botanic Gardens audiences over many years, were first to answer the call. No need to advertise your event in the 'What's On' column of the newspaper when you have the Pipes and Drums on the program. The skirl of the drums and the sounds of the bagpipes certainly attracted the attention of the neighbourhood.

The rotunda had been decorated for the occasion, however the balloons and streamers were eclipsed once the Warrnambool Ukulele Group arrived, with their popular sing-a-long repertoire and colourful costumes. Adding to the variety, talent and entertainment of the musical offerings on the day were the Holiday Actors, performing songs from their recent show; Venturi, a six piece flute ensemble and *Aniar*, popular local celtic band.



In the year 1913 Mayor John Wilson Younger performed the opening ceremony for our Band Rotunda. One hundred years later, his grand daughter Marigold Curtis was there to recount stories about her grandfather and his role in the official opening.

Also present was Helen Clarke, daughter of Alex Donaldson whose business, Beattie and Donaldson, won the contract to build the rotunda in 1913. Alex Donaldson was not only a builder but ran a timber yard in Raglan Pde, next to the Catholic Church, now Beaurepaires. Helen spoke of her family, describing their community interests and involvements.

Outside his business, Alex Donaldson was an active community member. He served as a City Councillor, 1925-32, and was President of the Tech School Council 1924-25. Perhaps the reason his firm did such a beautiful job of building the rotunda was that Alex and three of his sons all played in the City Band.

In recognition of the centenary, Helen Clarke and a Marigold Curtis cut a rotunda birthday cake, made and decorated by or long standing and dedicated member Leonie Cumming. The cake was shared among the many of the people who attended Spring Garden day.



Activities on the day included a display of historic photos of the Gardens and Rotunda, plant & produce stalls, guided tours of the Gardens, a raffle, and a very well patronised sausage sizzle. A very popular activity with small children was the mud-pie kitchen. The mini master chefs were busy at their work and the soup they made looked particularly interesting.

Janet Macdonald

SGD Raffle results:

1st Prize Garden Seat Yvonne Bartlett, Tower Hill
2nd Climbing Rose Dot Bathe, Heatherlie
3rd \$20 Bunnings voucher Karen Hughes, Rosanna (formerly Karen McPhee).

The Committee of the Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens wishes to thank the following individuals, businesses and groups for their generous assistance with the Spring Garden day:

Allansford Nursery for the donation of plants for the plant sale.

West Island Nursery for the donation of raffle prizes.

Bunnings for the donation of a voucher for the raffle.

Swintons IGA for the donation of a food voucher, used to purchase barbecue items.

Brumby's for the donation of barbecue bread.

Leonie Cumming for making and decorating the Rotunda birthday fruit cake

Donna Lumb for devising an interesting children's activity and keeping the children engaged all day.

John Macinnes for co-ordinating the musical entertainment.

Warrnambool College Music department for the loan of PA and amplifier.

Warrnambool City Band

Warrnambool Pipes and Drums

Holiday Actors

Aniar

Venturi flute ensemble

Warrnambool Ukelele Group.

Roberto Burle Marx

Burle Marx (1909-1994) was a ground-breaking artist and designer working in Brazil. At the age of 18, he had visited Europe and was influenced by the work of Van Gogh and other artists. He became a painter, but after visiting the Brazilian plant collection in the Dahlen Botanical Garden in Berlin, he returned to Brazil to design and create gardens using Brazilian plants. As a landscape designer he received many private and public commissions. He was responsible for the foreshore along Copacabana beach and a consultant and designer for the purpose built Brazilian capital of Brasilia.



In 1949 he bought a banana farm on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro where he made his home. Here he propagated plants he discovered on excursions into the forests. At least 50 plants bear his name. He continued to build the collection for the rest of his life, and on his death, bequeathed it to the State. The collection contains more than 3,500 cultivated species. The main families are: Araceae, Arecaceae, Bromeliaceae, Cycadaceae, Heliconiaceae, Marantaceae and Velloziaceae. He was a great collector and a notable artist. A museum on the site displays some of his work including

paintings, murals, tapestries, and tiles, and his exceptional collection of primitive and pre Colombian ceramics.

At the Friends 'First Wednesday' meeting in Scoborio's Shed, Pat Varley showed photos and spoke about her recent visit to the site. She emphasised the respect given to Marx work in Brazil; akin to the way we view Guilfoyle and Von Mueller.

"Burle Marx sought to preserve his place of experiments in landscape design to permit and facilitate the transmission of his main legacy – to know how to make gardens."

sitioburlemarx.blogspot.com.au

Good things Happen

The Friends were contacted by East Warrnambool Rotary Club who were interested in a project in the Gardens. They have now decided to take on the repainting of the seats and tables and to repaint the gun carriage. This work will be done in the coming year at times that do not inconvenience those who use the Gardens. This is a big undertaking and we thank them most sincerely for their involvement.



When our historic ‘Lone Pine’ was recently pruned of dead wood we realised that this significant link with Gallipoli was very special. Thanks to the skill and generosity of woodworker Louis Seater we now have some beautifully crafted pens. These, with the story of the [Lone Pine](#), are available for sale at \$25 each. With the anniversary of that battle looming, they will be in demand as gifts and collectables. If you are interested, place an order with a committee member or ring Pat on 55624800 or Mandy on 0438620343.

The Gardens will once again be the venue for Warrnambool’s Australia Day celebrations. On January 26th, beginning at 10.30am with a welcome to new citizens, there will be live music, kids’ activities, barbeques and depending on our ever changing weather, fun in the sun.

Our application to the Community Development Fund was successful, and we are grateful to Warrnambool City Council for the \$3,000 we received. This will meet some of the costs associated with the Spring Garden Day and celebration of the centenary of the Rotunda. It has enabled us to purchase display boards and make improvements to Scoborio’s Shed.

The fountain and surrounds are in need of maintenance and renowned Stonewaller Alastair Tune has undertaken to give advice on the old drystone walls. Their loose stones are a temptation to some of our more lively visitors and often end up in the fountain.

And Finally, from the President;



The Committee look forward to a gathering of as many members as possible at our end of year function on Thursday December 18th.

We value the support provided by a strong membership, currently 146 members. Your commitment to the Gardens enables us to speak with authority when making submissions for grants, or promoting our heritage Guilfoyle Garden. Come along and enjoy a work of art – a tapestry of plants, an asset for which we can all be proud and thankful.

Pat Varley.

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 2014

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 obtaining a
booking form.

MORNING IN THE GARDENS

This has been very popular with some interesting and
informative speakers over the year. We will be in recess
until Feb 5th 2014. Every first Wednesday of the
month we will have something on so mark it in your
diary. Past speakers have been from the [Community
Garden, Society for Growing Australian Plants](#), John
talked on his trip to UK and Pat and Janet on their trip
to Turkey, plus we heard from owners of district
gardens.

Join us in Scoborio's shed at 11.00am.

CHRISTMAS DRINKS

Wednesday 18th December 5.30pm at the Rotunda
R.S.V.P 16th December. Mandy 55620343

FACEBOOK

You don't have to be young these days to be on
[Facebook](#). Yes the young are major users but you can
sign in and choose carefully who your 'friends' are and
what you want to look at. John and the team are
posting regular updates giving an amazing timeline of
plants in the gardens. It is well worth signing up to see
what is happening and also view the amazing
photography



Mexican Hand Tree (Chiranthodendron pentadactylon)

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

Membership payment for 2013-14 was due by our AGM
There are a few outstanding membership payments, please check
your records to see if you have paid this year, thank you

We 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 (this is important to enable us to match our records
with your payment)