



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

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Maintaining and developing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden

Issue No. 72

Winter 2014

NEWSLETTER www.wbgardens.com.au

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This newsletter brings you an overview of our activities for the last year with a report on our Annual General Meeting held at South west Institute of TAFE on 9th July. It includes reports from the President, Curator and the Treasurer/auditors.

The meeting was well attended, with more than fifty members and guests enjoying a presentation by Pamela Jellie, Chair of the Camperdown Garden Group, who spoke on The Scottish Mafia in our Gardens, with special mention of Warrnambool and Colac Botanic Gardens. This was followed by a tasty lunch and the opportunity to mingle and share garden stories.

Mayor Cr. Michael Neoh installed the incoming office bearers and committee. Pat Varley stood down from the position of president and Janet Macdonald accepted the role for the coming year. Mandy King continues as secretary and Fiona Rule as treasurer. The committee remains unchanged.

NEWS AND NOTES

There will be no Spring Garden Day this year.

For a variety of reasons including the illness or absence of many members during September, the Committee resolved that this year we would have difficulty staging the event. There will be a review with the intention of presenting a bigger brighter Spring Garden Day in 2015.

We are considering holding a produce stall offering home preserves garden produce and our cards and pens at an open garden day in November, so keep this in mind.

Our Bus trip and Luncheon on 13th November visiting historic homesteads and gardens between Warrnambool and Caramut has proved very popular. All 50 seats have now been booked and we have a waiting list.

When the Gun in the Gardens was provided with a new stand, thanks to the Triton Woodworkers and many other community contributors, the original stand of Burmese Teak was removed to Flagstaff Hill for its protection. (June 2010) This remarkable relic now has its own canopy. The early history of the old cannon and stand is recorded in Newsletters No 48 and No 51. All newsletters are available on our website.





Following Marigold Curtis' article on the dragon tree (*Dracaena*) in our last newsletter, it is interesting to read that Scoborio planted some of these as Warrnambool street trees in 1894. There is no evidence of any survivors. In Adelaide on the west side of Government House in North Terrace, *Dracaenas* run for an entire block outside the cast iron fence. Closer to home, there is a magnificent specimen in central Drysdale.

We recently made a joint submission to Warrnambool City Council with the Friends of Swan Reserve, for Swan Reserve to become an annex of WBG under the control of Curator, John Sheely. Each site would retain its own "Friends" group. This has been approved for a 12 month trial.

The Lone Pine Project and restoration of the well and windmill together with extension of the irrigation system are our priorities for the year ahead.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Warrnambool is noted for its street trees, especially the Norfolk Pines and Moreton Bay Figs. In 1986 the Norfolk Pines were valued at three million dollars. Speaking in May 1991 Archie Graham said we need to spend \$50,000 per annum to preserve them. People often ask their age. The following extracts from the Warrnambool Standard in September 1894 suggests many are more than 120 years old.

Planting of street trees has been completed under the supervision of Mr C. Scoborio. Variety has been attained in the selection of the trees as five different kinds have been planted. These are – Moreton Bay figs, Norfolk Island pines, dracaena, cupressus... and pinus halepensis. All the trees are evergreens and when they grow larger will add materially to the appearance of the streets. The number of trees planted was 144 and there are now over 900 in the streets of Warrnambool. (25/9/1894) and two days later



The curator of the botanic gardens reported as to the work done in the gardens and also in planting trees in the streets. These trees would require great attention during the summer, as most of them were a good size and were planted rather late in the season. Many of the trees in various streets would have to be attended to at once.

Some of our stately Norfolk Pines in Raglan parade are looking very sad. Others at intersections where the pounding of traffic is heaviest are dead. It is pleasing to see recent mulching of trees at the intersection of Raglan Parade and Henna Street, but for some it is too little too late. As Scoborio said - Many of the trees in various streets would have to be attended to at once.

THE MEXICAN HAND PLANT

With the unpronounceable name of *Chiranthodendron Pentadactylon* our plant is surely very special! You may remember that back in 2004 the RBGM gave us this Mexican Hand Plant, along with six other botanic gardens in the Western District. They belong to the *Sterculiaceae* family and originated in Mexico. The earliest plants were considered sacred by the Indians who used them in medicines for relieving pain and inflammation. They can be found today in the mountain forests of Mexico and Guatemala.



Our tree is planted near the cannon, so that people passing by or coming to sit and watch children playing there, can be up close and witness the spectacular colouring of its flowers. When their colourful reddish flowers unfurl they resemble a small hand hence its name. Spanish botanists who studied the tree back in the 18th century called it 'Flower of the Little Hand'. Our tree, now some 5 metres high, has a very strong structure and will continue to be enjoyed by visitors to the gardens for many years to come.

Marigold Curtis

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 2014

It is very pleasing to present the annual report of the Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. The original Steering Committee of the Friends was formed in 1989 and their inaugural AGM in 1992. In 2013 we had 153 members.

One of the many advantages of a long established garden like ours, is the numerous opportunities it provides for celebrating significant anniversaries. In the past year the rotunda reached its century which we joyfully celebrated at our annual Spring Garden Day in September.

Two hundred years ago, in 1813, the old cannon was cast. Now secure on its new stand, it is polished daily by the legs of enthusiastic cannon climbers, some very young and some not so young. It has been in the Gardens for more than 100 years.

Eighty years ago the Lone Pine was dedicated to the AIF in an impressive ceremony in the Gardens. In January we were able to arrange a small ceremony attended by some of the grandchildren of Sergeant Keith McDowell, the soldier who brought home "the" cone, and of Emma Gray who grew the seed.

Our Lone Pine is recognised as a significant link to Gallipoli and we were successful in a submission to the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program for funding to improve signage by the tree. Warrnambool Legacy, Warrnambool RSL sub branch and Warrnambool City Council also support our project for the Preservation Propagation and Promotion of the Lone Pine. The tree will gain more and more attention as the centenary of the Battle of Lone pine (August 1915) approaches.

The Gardens have benefitted from many generous donations. The Isobel and David Jones Family Foundation provided a picnic setting which will be located on the southern lawn. Other seats have been repainted with assistance from Rotary Club of Warrnambool East. We have been able to install heating in Scoborio' Shed thanks to a WCC Community Development Grant. Andrew Laidlaw provided concept plans for the development of the well area free of charge and the well site has been cleared and made safe. Unfortunately our first round application to the Heritage Vic Restoration Fund for development of the well area was not successful. We will try again.

Since the closure of Cockman Street to through traffic most visitors enter the gardens from Botanic Road. Aware that many find the uphill marathon to our aged toilets, daunting at best and terrifying in emergencies, we made a submission to the WCC's Loo Review for an accessible toilet on the north east boundary. It was recognised as worthy, but there is a queue ahead of us.

An AGM is a time to take stock and report on our assets – so, apart from our serene, heritage listed, Guilfoyle garden, what are our assets?

We have an exceptional Curator with a dedicated team.

We have long term links with community organisations including the Society for Growing Australian Plants and South West TAFE. The latter make regular use of the Gardens for horticultural training and Children's Services.

We have a long serving and hardworking Committee. They organise our regular guided walks, our informal 'First Wednesday' talks, our resource collection, publicity, newsletter and special events. Our long serving and staunch Secretary, Mandy King oversees our website and maintains links with national and international organisations while Vice President Janet MacDonald links us with so many like minded organisations. Our special thanks go to Fiona Rule who at short notice, took over the role of Treasurer on the resignation mid term of our former treasurer.

This concludes my Presidential term and I thank everyone for their support. I have had great pleasure and satisfaction in working with a passionate and dedicated group of garden lovers and will continue to do so.

Thankyou all. *Pat Varley*

Curator's Report Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

FOWBG AGM 9 July 2014

The Warrnambool Botanic Gardens (WBG) team is pleased to report on our achievements over the past year. Achievements by the team over the past year include:

- Removal of Cypress Arch to reinstate intended views of the palm avenue.
- Continued mulching of existing specimen trees and shrub beds.
- Infill plantings of shrub beds to add to the diversity of plant material and to increase the 'bulk' of these beds.
- Mulching of these beds continues along with some reshaping to define bed edges and to assist with turf management.
- Planting of bulbs within strategic locations to increase the diversity of flowers within WBG and also to highlight certain areas at certain times of the year.
- Installation of a new bore line through the central lawn area.
- Removal of woody weeds on the western island (bed 17) and the replanting of more suitable plants.
- Installation of solenoid valves to beds 8, 10, 13, 14 and 16 for future automated irrigation within these beds.
- Display bed plantings using both annual displays and perennial displays.
- Installation of fixed sprinklers within the fernery that are now automated.
- Planting and mulching of specimen trees within lawn areas.
- Collection of Lone Pine cones for potential propagation and distribution.
- Dead wooding and selective pruning of high profile trees was undertaken resulting in significant aesthetic improvements along with proactive mature tree management.
- Planting out, mulching and tree guarding of significant pines within the pinetum.
- Continued management of WBG Facebook page that enables the team to post events, works and general interest photos of WBG for followers to see.
- Continued close association with South West TAFE in which apprentices gain much needed practical experience within WBG.

The WBG team, Ros, Murle and I, again look forward to continuing our close working relationship with the Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. Personally I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FOWBG committee for their continued support of the team's work within WBG.

I encourage all of you to visit the WBG and take the time to grab a team member and have a chat.

Happy gardening!

John Sheely
Curator, Warrnambool BG



FRIENDS OF THE WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
RECEIPTS		
Catering Fees	-	100
Donations and Grants	4,346	7,277
Fundraising Activities	850	-
Interest Received	-	1,022
Other Income	-	230
Spring Garden Day	1,861	792
Ticket Sales - Ballarat	-	2,300
Membership Fees	1,456	1,720
	<u>8,513</u>	<u>13,441</u>
PAYMENTS		
Advertising	-	50
Association Fees	51	43
Audit Fees	347	363
Catering Expenses	-	25
Community Development Fund (CDF)	4,202	-
Donations Paid - Lone Pine Project	3,286	20
Entertainment and Meetings	402	203
General Expenses	405	226
Insurance	266	250
Petty Cash Advance	-	150
Professional Development	-	3,500
Subscriptions	160	140
Trip Expenses - Ballarat	-	2,111
Postage	20	243
Printing, Photocopying and Stationery	340	586
Web Site	405	-
	<u>9,884</u>	<u>7,910</u>
Net Operating Surplus for the year ended 30th June, 2014	<u>(1,371)</u>	<u>5,531</u>
Add: Transfer for Term Deposit	-	15,043
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year ended 30th June, 2014	<u>(1,371)</u>	<u>20,574</u>

**FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL
BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.**

A0032902E

President

Janet Macdonald (03) 5562 4059

Vice-president

Pat Varley (03) 5562 4800

Secretary

Mandy King 0438620343

Treasurer

Fiona Rule (03) 5565 4387

Committee

Marigold Curtis (03) 5567 6316

Jean Fitzpatrick (03) 5562 3447

Marie Johnstone (03) 5562 3238

Joan Keith (03) 55624377

Anne Lynch (03) 5562 1303

Judi Phillips (03) 5562 3320

Billie Rowley (03) 5561 1583

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 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

GIFT CERTIFICATE

An interesting Christmas gift or other special occasion.
Give a 'Gift Certificate' for a one year membership to the
Friends. Membership gives a quarterly newsletter,
notifications of special garden related events and support of
one of Warrnambool's great icons.
Please contact a committee member, email
friends@wbgardens.com.au or call Mandy on 0438620343

SPRING GARDEN DAY CANCELLED

Unfortunately we have postponed the Spring Garden day for
this year. Please make a note in your diary

GARDEN CARDS

Cards depicting scenes of the gardens are for sale, \$5 for a
pack of 5 cards or \$1 each - shown in our last newsletter

WARRNAMBOOL HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

This will be a fabulous day out for the family, show-casing
some interesting country gardens - Sunday 16th November
Watch out for advertising for this day.

CASTERTON GARDENS

Experience Music, Art, Garden in Casterton - Sunday 26th
October from 10am - Admission \$20. Registration point
Casterton Secondary College, visit 5 gardens. Free shuttle bus

MORNING IN THE GARDENS

Join us in Scoborio's shed at 11.00am first Wednesday of the
month to listen to passionate gardeners talk all things garden

FACEBOOK

Don't forget to visit the WBG [Facebook](#) page. This passed
month shows Melianthus major (Giant Honey Flower),
rejuvenation of the fernery, mulching works around
prominent trees and high profile garden beds plus much more.

BOOKING AN EVENT IN THE GARDENS

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

A donation to the Friends for the use of the Rotunda for your
event would be greatly appreciated. Much work and
restoration in the Gardens has been achieved through
donations to the Friends the rotunda being one of many
projects, with public support the fittings and layout of the
rotunda was made possible.
Please contact us for a donation form and on request your
donation will be receipted.

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS

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

Family \$25, Single \$20 Corporate \$100