



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

A0032902E

Maintaining and developing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden

Issue No. 74

Autumn 2015

NEWSLETTER
www.wbgardens.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our Botanic Gardens have enjoyed a long *cool* summer, appearing in their magnificent best clothing during the busy Australia Day and Wunta celebrations, when large crowds took part in the organised public events in the gardens.

Following our summer break, the Friends committee has commenced what is looking to be a busy period of activity leading up to the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the gardens on the Cockman St site. A planning committee has been established, consisting of Friends committee members, curator John Sheely, and others invited from the wider community, including Cr Kylie Gaston. The first meeting held on March 18th was an ideas session. Over the next few months we will be refining these ideas and turning them into plans for events and activities to mark this important milestone in the evolution of our Gardens. We extend an invitation to all members to please contact us if you have ideas or interest in being part of the planning process.

While on the subject of anniversaries, our most significant tree will be centre of attention this year, as the centenary the Gallipoli campaign is commemorated throughout Australia and New Zealand. The Friends committee has been preparing for this anniversary over the past year, applying for and receiving grant money from federal and local government sources, and from Legacy and RSL. These grants have been detailed in newsletters last year. Some of that money has been spent on care of the [Lone Pine](#) with selective pruning of dead branches and upgrading the watering systems in that area of the gardens, and on harvesting cones from the top of the tree.



Another portion of the grant money is being used to improve signage and interpretation of the story of the Lone Pine. The original cast metal sign on the fence surrounding the tree was placed there at the time of its dedication in 1934 and as part of the tree's history, will remain in situ. A new, larger sign will soon be set in place nearby, explaining a little of the story of the tree. Like the signage on the rotunda, this sign will carry a QR code, with links to the Friends website, where interested visitors will be able to gain more information about the Lone Pine, view photos and download information. It is hoped that school children and casual visitors to our gardens will find this facility useful.



The battle surrounding the eponymous 'Lone Pine' tree from which seeds of our *Pinus brutia* were taken, occurred 6-9th August 1915, so we are planning an activity to mark the anniversary at the Lone Pine in August. It is anticipated that the signage will be erected before for Anzac Day. So, please make a special trip to the gardens as part of your Anzac Day weekend, to view the new sign and read the remarkable story of our Warrnambool's most significant tree.

Janet Macdonald

ACANTHUS

Most gardeners are familiar with that vigorous hardy plant commonly called the Oyster Plant. It is *Acanthus mollis*. It provides the ground cover beneath the Bull Bay Magnolia near the fountain in Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. Condemned by some as a haven for snails and a persistent and invasive plant, the Acanthus never the less, has an ancient and significant history.

Its leaves have provided the model/inspiration for architectural decoration from Greek and Roman times. Acanthus decoration appears in the capitals of Corinthian columns in ancient Greece as early as 450 BC. It continued to be used by the Romans. It features in Byzantine, Romanesque and Gothic architecture and that of the Renaissance. If you take a walk along Liebig Street, Lava Street, Fairy Street and other parts of central Warrnambool you will see that it was very popular in the late nineteenth century. Focus on pillars, pilasters, cornices and veranda posts, and the interior wall papers, ceiling decoration and carved furniture. The motif is used in a variety of ways in most mediums. In our city the acanthus is all pervasive.



These three will be found in Jamieson Street and Lava Street



The Corinthian order is said to have been first designed by a Greek architect, Callimachus, who when walking through a burial ground in Corinth, was impressed by the grave of a young girl. A basket of offerings had been placed on the grave and an acanthus plant had wound its way around and through the basket.

While *Acanthus mollis* seems to be the inspiration for most of the decorations, the still more deeply cut leaves of *Acanthus spinosus* also appear in the Corinthian order and the Composite order, a variation sometimes including elements of the Doric and Ionic orders.



William Guilfoyle designed the first architectural order to be used in Australia – The Staghorn. This appears in the Temple of the Winds in the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.



Royal Botanic Gardens Birdwood Avenue South Yarra Temple of the Winds Capital Detail

Warrnambool Botanic Gardens have a special collection of Acanthus

The Acanthus, described as a herbaceous perennial plant with an underground rhizome, thrives in the warmth of the Mediterranean region where it is most prolific. It tends to wilt under full sun and prefers light shade.

There are about 30 species of Acanthus. Currently we have thirteen.



Acanthus mollis Holland's Gold

Acanthus sennii

Acanthus growing within WBG March 2015

Acanthus mollis

Acanthus spinosus 'Beth Chatto'

Acanthus mollis 'Red Legs'

Acanthus spinosus 'Lady Moore'

Acanthus mollis 'Hollards Gold'

Acanthus longicaulis

Acanthus mollis 'Rue Ledan'

Acanthus sennii

Acanthus eminens

Acanthus pubescens

Acanthus caroli-alexandri

Acanthus hungaricus

Acanthus spinosus

Pat Varley

AUSTRALIAN BOTANY

AUSTRALIAN BOTANY
Specially designed
FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS By W. R. GUILFOYLE, F.L.S.

Elizabeth O'Callaghan, long time member of 'The Friends' and notable local historian has donated a copy of this interesting little book to add to our collection.

It is a second edition published in 1874 by George Robertson, Melbourne.

On the fly leaf is written; Muriel Pounds March 1891 Carrical Hawthorn.

The extract below is from the preface to the first edition which is republished in the second edition.

IN writing this little rudimentary work, which has no higher aim than that of familiarizing the beginner with the principal parts of plants and their manner of growth, the author has endeavoured throughout to keep in view the suggestion of the great botanist whose words are quoted on the title-page [Linnaeus] withstanding the importance of Botany in science, art, and commerce, and the great value of at least a general knowledge of its principles in a young country like Australia, its practical alphabet is surrounded by so many difficulties as to remove it from the list of subjects ordinarily taught in our Schools. This unfortunate circumstance is principally attributable to the fact that classical languages have been employed in conferring botanical names. Doubtless this was and is necessary for the higher purposes of the science; since Latin and Greek form a common ground on which botanists of all countries can meet in constructing a universal nomenclature.

Which brings to mind the old student complaint;
Latin's a dead language,
As dead as dead can be,
It killed all the Romans
And now it's killing me.

Pat Varley

COME PICNIC IN CAMPERDOWN

The Friends plan to visit the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Alun and Fiona Morris's garden at Gnotuk on Wednesday April 8th and invite all interested and able to come along.

This will be a self drive excursion, but we anticipate sharing transport. Cars will leave from the main gate in Cockman Street at 10.00am arriving at the Camperdown Gardens at 11.00 am where Janet O'Hehir, secretary of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum trust will meet us for a tour of the gardens.

Bring your own picnic lunch to eat under the Linden trees.

After lunch we will visit the beautiful garden at Gnotuk House.

When ? Wednesday April 8th. Cars depart 10.00am.

Where? Depart from main gate Cockman Street for Camperdown Botanic gardens.

Bring Picnic lunch

RSVP Contact Janet (55624059) Mandy (0438620343) Pat (55624800) with any inquiries and to let us know if you are coming.

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS Inc.

A0032902E

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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 friends@wbgardens.com.au
and we will put you on the email list

GIFT CERTIFICATE

The gift of a certificate is a thoughtful way to introduce your
family and friends to the Gardens.

Please contact a committee member, email
friends@wbgardens.com.au or call Mandy on 0438620343

GARDEN CARDS

Cards depicting scenes of the gardens are for sale, \$10 for a
pack of 5 cards or \$2 each

MORNING IN THE GARDENS

We hold this gathering every first Wednesday of the month
commencing at 11am. Last year we had many inspiring local
garden enthusiast talk about their endeavours and passions.
All welcome, do come along, enjoy morning tea and a chat

FACEBOOK

Don't forget to visit the WBG [Facebook](#) page.



Acanthus caroli-alexandri flowers profusely in
October/November. This *Acanthus* has deeply divided leaves
and is a great contrast to the well known and common
Acanthus mollis.

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 is one of many
projects. With public support the fittings and layout of the
rotunda was made possible.

Please contact us for a donation form. 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