



FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

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Maintaining and developing Warrnambool Botanic Gardens as an outstanding Guilfoyle garden

Issue No. 75

Winter 2015

NEWSLETTER
www.wbgardens.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President's Report - Winter 2015

There may be fewer people out and about in the gardens at this time of year, however there has been a large amount of work going on behind the scenes. The committee has been busy making plans for the 150th anniversary in 2016 and we have plenty to do before that milestone is reached. The curator and committee have been consulting with a volunteer designer to develop a special logo to be used during the anniversary year, and hope that members and the public will take the time to examine the design and reflect on the meaning of the various elements.



Photo Competition

You will not have to wait long to see the first public appearances of the 150th logo. The first event of the anniversary year - *A Guilfoyle Garden: Guests & Greenery* photographic competition - will kick off in August. This activity, aimed to highlight our Gardens in all their glory, will culminate in an exhibition in the middle of 2016. We are hoping to attract a wide participation in this event, so the competition will run from 1st August 2015 through until 31st May 2015, to give as broad a range of Gardens visitors as possible time and photo opportunities. The competition will be open to all, especially Friends! Details will be sent out to members, be available on our web page and will be in the press.

Well project

Since the completion of the cannon project in 2010 we have had restoration of the old well and windmill precinct on our agenda. The really terrific news is that long wished for plans for restoration of the well and landscaping of the surrounds are literally on the drawing board, due to substantial support from the Isobel and David Jones Family Foundation. With the aid of a recent grant, we are now in a position to initiate this project in stages, and hope to have that long neglected area adjacent to Scoborio's Shed transformed into a key vantage point for viewing the Gardens by the end of 2016.

Masterplan

Confirmation has been received this week that WCC has allocated funds in their 2015/16 budget for the development of a master plan for WBG. This confirms the importance that our Council places upon our Gardens as one of the city's most valued assets. The purpose of master planning is to provide a framework for the future development of the Gardens, taking into consideration the original design elements, history, current plant collections and changes over time to the way public spaces are designed and managed. It is entirely appropriate that as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Gardens at the Cockman St site, we look to the future with a planning document to inform the decision making of future custodians.

Lone Pine Commemoration

A public event will be held in the Gardens on Thursday 6th August. All members will receive an invitation to this ceremony to mark the centenary of the battle, and also of the beginning of the story of our very special tree. So, please note the date in your calendar now, details will follow.



First Wednesday

Our regular first Wednesday of the month meetings are still occurring though at this time of year it is sometimes difficult to engage guest speakers, so we have continued the practice from last year of using the first Wednesday meeting times during winter as working sessions. All members are welcome to come along to these, as we will be working in the shed. Often the 'work' amounts to morning tea and a chat, with a bit of paperwork and planning on the side, so don't let the rumour of work to do put you off turning up. Our interesting and diverse line up of speakers will resume in the spring.

AGM

This newsletter contains a call out to all Friends to attend our annual meeting on Wednesday 22nd July. We can guarantee that the lunch will be delicious, the guest speaker interesting and highly relevant and the formalities will be kept to a minimum. Please consider extending the invitation to attend to anyone who you think might be interested in this meeting. We would love to see new faces at the meeting.

*Janet Macdonald
President – FWBG.*

DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR OUR LONE PINE - 6TH AUG

We will be holding a dedication ceremony by our Lone Pine on Thursday 6th August. This is the date on which the Battle of Lone Pine began one hundred years ago.

Come along about 4.45pm for a commemoration timed for 5.00pm. You will receive more details as our plans firm up, but mark the sixth in your diary.

Our project for the 'Preservation, Propagation and Promotion of the Lone Pine' is almost complete, so come read the new sign and try the QR code to link to stories of Lone Pine. Of the four trees planted from the cone brought back from Gallipoli by Keith McDowell and grown by his aunt Emma Gray at Grasmere three remain. The tree at the Shrine in Melbourne died so metropolitan services will centre on Wattle Park. A range of activities are planned for the weekend to recognise the tree at The Sisters.

We still have a few pens turned from wood pruned from the Lone Pine, but if you want one order now. A simple pen of this lovely wood sells for \$40 while the very popular bolt action release with bullet point is \$60.

Contact Pat Varley ph 55 62 4800 or by email patv@deakin.edu.au

(QR Quick Response - to our web page - you need an app on your smart phone)



*Emma Gray who grew
our pine from seed*



Keith McDowell

TEAM UPDATE JULY 2015

Hard to believe but July already!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It has been another busy 6 months for the WBG team.

We had great joy in spending the \$6000 that the FOWBG generously donated last year for irrigation upgrades.

Unfortunately, all the work is underground but essential in upgrading our watering.

The \$6000 resulted in the following:

- 227 metres of new poly pipe being installed
- 227 metres of irrigation wire being installed
- Drainage to the fernery being installed
- New taps to beds 15, 19, 21 and 22

The new poly pipe will enable more water to be delivered to garden beds and lawns as the old tired and clogged galvanised pipes have been bypassed.

The irrigation wire will in time allow us to automate some of the garden beds.

Mulching and planting within the shrub beds continue along with mulching of the specimen trees.

Quite a big project was the re-mulching of the 'Money Tree', which took a significant amount of mulch and was expertly undertaken by Ros and Murtle.

Uplifting of the cypress and pine trees along the western boundary has led to unprecedented positive feedback! These works undertaken by Council's tree team have enabled the gardens to be viewed from Bromfield Street and what I believe provides a more inviting feel for visitors.

Pruning back of shrubs continues as the character of the gardens morphs into winter and the landscape physically changes to reveal a more 'open' garden.

I'd encourage those who are able to come along to the FOWBG AGM on Wednesday 22 July 2015 and see what the WBG team has been up to via our annual photo presentation.

John Sheely
6 July 2015



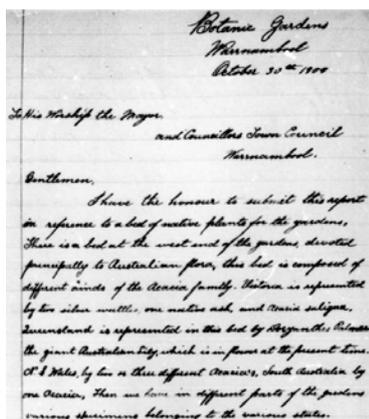
THE BOTANIC GARDENS REPORT BOOK (1898 - 1958)

The Botanic Gardens Report Book covers the latter part of the curatorship of Charles Scoborio from 1898 to his retirement in April 1905, William Donald 1906 – 1932, and Duncan Leitch 1933-1958. In an earlier Newsletter, Spring 2004, No 34, we reproduced a report by Charles Scoborio, lamenting the dry summer of 1898. His reports spoke of horses and cows allowed to wander in the streets and ‘persons attending the Saleyards tying their horses to the trees, it’s a great nuisance.’ In Raglan Parade, 14 trees had the leading shoots broken off by ‘some mischievous persons...’

The original Report Book is the property of The City of Warrnambool and is available for research in the Library. The Friends have a photocopy of the Reports and a digitised copy is available at Warrnambool and District Historical Society. With their copperplate letters and formal address to ‘His Worship the Mayor and Town Councillors’ from their ‘Obedient Servant’ they invoke a past era.

While Scoborio was a Cornish man both Donald and Leitch were Scots. Donald arrived in Australia via Canada and Leitch had been a gardener at Stirling Castle in Scotland.

William Donald succeeded Scoborio as Curator. He respected the earlier design of the Gardens and was keen to plant more deciduous trees as well as native species from all Australian states. Extracts from his reports are transcribed below.



Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit this report in reference to a bed of native plants for the gardens. There is a bed at the west end of the gardens devoted principally to Australian flora, this bed is composed of different kinds of the Acacia family. Victoria is represented by two silver wattle, one native ash and Acacia salinga, Queensland is represented in this bed by Doryanthis palmari the giant Australian lily, which is in flower at the present time [October 30th] N.S.Wales, by two or three different Acacias, South Australia by one Acacia..... (1909 p37)

The following is from Dec 26th 1911 – It makes interesting reading for those who recall the recent removal of the Moreton Bay Figs near the Anglican Church and the very recent plantings in Victoria Park, all in Koroit St west, north side.

Report on trees and guards Koroit St west.

The Parks and Gardens Committee decided about two years ago to replant this section in Koroit St west from Ryot St to Friendly Society’s park. The trees in this section at present are a mixed lot being Cupressus Lambertiana and Ficus Macrophylla, (Moreton Bay Fig) and as neither of these species make ideal trees for street decoration purposes it was decided by the Parks and Gardens committee to replant with Norfolk Island Pines, so as to make this section uniform with the other trees in the street. The south side of Koroit St being all Norfolk Island Pines from Henna St to Showgrounds and the north side between Henna St and Ryot St likewise. If this section from Ryot St to the F.S.Park were planted with Norfolk Island Pines, it would make a very nice Avenue of trees from Henna St to show grounds. Failing this the only thing I can recommend would be to remove the old tree guards and Moreton Bay Fig trees as these trees are small and stunted and will never make trees of any size. p.42

GARDENS IN CAMPERDOWN

Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Alun and Fiona Morris's garden at Gnotuk were the venue for a self drive excursion and picnic for the Friends in April.

Janet O'Hehir, secretary of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum trust met us and took us for a tour of the gardens. The energetic work of the Trust has rejuvenated the gardens which occupy a most spectacular site overlooking Lakes Gnotuk and Bullen Merri. A public park of 300 acres (121ha) was reserved here in 1869 to include a botanic garden and arboretum and by 1874 more than 300 trees had been planted. Unfortunately later generations have not always maintained the vision of the founders and the park has been leased for grazing and from the 1960s alienated as a camping ground. None the less many of the original trees survive and with care and conservation the original ideal could be achieved.

The picnic we planned under the Linden trees was quickly abandoned when Janet generously offered the warmth of her home as an alternative - it was a cold cold day!
It was a bonus to visit the Camperdown Heritage Centre where Guilfoyle's original plan for Camperdown 1888/1889 was on display.

Alun and Fiona Morris have owned Gnotuk House since 1998. The 1864 homestead was originally that of Archibald Black. The historic garden has many rare and venerable trees both native and exotic. David Bunce influenced some of the early design and planting. While it is obvious that the garden has been loved and appreciated by a succession of owners, today's custodians are deeply committed to not only restoring the house surrounds, but also reclaiming and developing much of the area to the west of the house where rabbits and periwinkle ran rampant.

We thank Alun and Fiona for their generosity in sharing their knowledge and passion with us as we were introduced to plants of all shapes sizes and ancestry, and we thank Janet for her enthusiasm and her hospitality.

I Wonder??????

The Warrnambool Standard has for many years run a column recalling past events of twenty five, fifty, one hundred and 150 years ago.

Town surveyor J.C.Ross estimated it would cost 561 pounds to asphalt the lake at the Botanic Gardens. (p.8 27/12/2014)

Two boys were injured by exploding pine cones they had placed in the fireplaces of their North Warrnambool homes. (21/2/2015)



Warrnambool Town Council 1896

Front right -

C Scoborio

(Curator of Gardens)

Thankyou to W&DHS

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 2015

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

MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS - FEES ARE DUE

Renewal Membership forms attached

You can make your payment by
Direct Payment, sending a cheque or pay when you come to
the AGM

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

FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM with guest speaker Bart Gane followed by light
lunch. 12 noon Wednesday 22nd July 2015
Conference Room, Level 3 TAFE building, Timor Street
Existing and new members welcome.

Lone Pine Celebration

Thursday 4.45pm 6th August 2015 - at the Lone Pine

Photo Competition

1st August 2015 to 31st May 2016

MORNING IN THE GARDENS

We hold this gathering every first Wednesday of the month
commencing at 11am. We have had representatives from local
garden groups, flower clubs, floral arranges and many more.
All welcome, do come along, enjoy morning tea and a chat

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

LONE PINE PENS



FACEBOOK

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

BOOKING AN EVENT IN THE GARDENS

Are you thinking of holding an event in the Gardens? go to
our [website](#) 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.