



Campsis

NEWSLETTER

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

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No. 28

April 2007

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The Association Committee Meeting was held at the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens meeting room.

Committee Left to right:

Piers Bannatyne, Orange, Judith Bailey, Ballarat, Annie McGeachy, Geelong Sec, Alex Smart, RBG Cranbourne, Pres Mandy King, Warrnambool, Janet Thomson, RBG Melb. Warwick Wright ANBG, Canberra, Betty Lindsay, Benalla (missing-Denise Underwood, Shepparton) The background quilts, made by two Geelong Friends, represent aspect of the 21st C. and 19C. garden.

2006 has proved to be a very busy and constructive year for the Committee and with benefits to the members.

Our major activity for the past year was the Bi-Annual Conference held at Cranbourne, Victoria during September 2006. The participation and contribution of members from far and wide contributed to the success of the conference. It is expected that a small surplus will be reported.

An important milestone was reached this year when the Association welcomed our first members from W A. The Association now has members from the ACT, NT, NSW, Qld, SA, Vic and WA.

The Association also became an Associate Member of Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand (BGANZ) the national network established to support Botanic Gardens.

Your committee is aware of the responsibility we have to support and assist remote and regional members. Following member's responses from an earlier questionnaire a sub-committee was appointed. Their work culminated in;

- A review of the Association Purposes & Rules, completed and approved at the September Conference.
- Development of a members Information Kit, presented at the 2006 Conference with a copy forwarded to those members not represented. The Kit should be regarded as a dynamic document which will be edited and updated to suit the needs of members.

Thanks are due to our office bearers and committee members for another worthwhile year.

President, Alex Smart

FROM THE SECRETARY

It is very pleasing to welcome another two members to the Association, with the return of Friends of George Tindale Memorial Gardens in the Dandenong Ranges and an emerging support group for another of Victoria's 19th century gardens, with Friends of Malmsbury Botanic Gardens & Environs. Membership is now 42- with a 43rd. imminent.

The Association Annual General Meeting at Geelong on April 3rd saw the retirement of Catherine Drew from Hamilton Friends after some years of support and service and the replacement of Piers Bannatyne, Friends of Orange, with Patricia Bannatyne. Janet Thomson, Friends RBG Melbourne advised she would retire in 2008. The Vice President position remains vacant. (Committee list back page)

The Association Committee has some concerns about the difficulties of operating a national body. While e-mail has resolved many communication issues it is still necessary to have some 'face to face' Committee meeting each year and ideally, held at various Association Member locations. However the travel logistics for Committee members and support for travel costs incurred require some consideration.

The possibility of combining Association Conference and the National Guides Conferences, currently held in alternate years, was again discussed with a view to canvassing opinion and format suggestions for discussion at the September Guides Conference in Adelaide.

On April 15th/16th I attended the BGANZ (Vic) Regional Meeting held at the Benalla Art Gallery. The excellent program and catering hosted by the Benalla Friends, who also arranged billets for delegates, was very well attended by Council and gardens personnel and Friends from numerous gardens, providing great networking opportunities.

A guided walk through the Benalla Gardens and along the Riverine Parkland clearly reflected the degree of commitment and community support in recent years. Benalla Friends are to be congratulated on being represented on the Committee having oversight of the use and management of these areas.

The next BGANZ (Vic) Regional meeting day will be at Colac on Friday November 16th, and a welcome dinner Thursday evening 15th and we would encourage members to attend (further details tba. on website). The BGANZ (Vic) regional meetings raise the local Botanic Garden profile, highlight local and regional issues for local Council members, gardens personnel and Friends and provide networking and co-operative opportunities.

Note

Date change: April 4th to 6th

2008 Association Conference hosted by the Friends of Orange Botanic Gardens

Federal Government Community Water Grants:

Round 3 Water Grants opened on April 23rd closing date July 4th. Register your application on line before June 22nd.

There is some help with the dreadful dry!

The best of luck!

Annie McGeachy

Secretary

FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS

Gold Fields Region, Victoria

2007 promises to be a very exciting year for the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, for it is the 150th anniversary of the Gardens. The Friends are preparing a series of events to celebrate this historic occasion. These will include historic displays, special garden tours and a celebratory dinner. We have been excited to have located the original plans for the Gardens and these are to be professionally restored for display.

Because of the prolonged drought the Ballarat Begonia Festival this year was reduced from 10 days to 3, on the Labour Day weekend, and staged in a very different format. There are no garden beds planted at the moment and there were also concerns that crowds on what remains of the lawns would be damaging to the lawns. So this year the main displays were held on the Lake side of Wendouree Parade with no charge for admission. This proved a great success with good attendance. The Friends had their usual plant sales and were very pleased with the level of sales achieved in the shorter duration of the Festival.



Lake Wendouree dry, 2nd time in 100 years

Lake Wendouree has finally dried out completely for what we believe is the second time in 100 years. Advantage is being taken of the dry lake bed to do various maintenance works such as deepening the rowing course and removing rubbish. A recycled water facility is being established which, along with other initiatives, is expected to enable the Lake to be refilled and not dry out again.

Another matter of great interest is the planned construction of a special building for the Friends. This will be located near our nursery and will be the centre for our plant sales. It will also serve as an office, meeting room for committees as well as a much needed improvement in accommodation for our engraving group. We are currently wading through the inevitable red tape of permits and such like but we hope to have it ready to open later this year.

Raoul D. Dixon
President.

FRIENDS OF BENALLA BOTANICAL GARDENS & RIVERINE PARKLAND

North Eastern Victoria

Benalla hosts BGANZ (Victoria) meeting

The Friends of the Benalla Botanical Gardens & Riverine Parkland hosted the March meeting of BGANZ (Victoria), with the financial support of Benalla Rural City Council. About 50 people attended the day, with 30 of the delegates coming from outside Benalla - representing 15 different organisations from across the state. It was especially pleasing to see the large number of professional staff who took the time to attend from the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne and Cranbourne, including the chief executive Dr. Philip Moors.



Visiting the Rose Gardens

the Friends providing insight into both the history of the gardens and recent achievements and challenges. The day included a tour of the Botanical Gardens, followed by the BGANZ business after lunch. The group completed the Benalla Lake Walk and was introduced to Benalla's new Indigenous Community Garden at Moira Reserve, presently under construction.

Benalla has a unique cultural centre surrounding Lake Benalla, that includes not only the heritage listed Botanical Gardens and outstanding Art Gallery but also the ceramic mural, new Indigenous Community Garden and the remnant River Red Gum forest at the heart of our town.

The delegates saw at first hand the town's success in raising interest and funds for projects in the Botanical Gardens and Riverine Parkland. It was very rewarding to hear the comments from those attending who were very impressed with the high standard of the Gardens and Lake area, which have transformed in recent years. They would certainly be inclined to tell others about Benalla - both in terms of visiting and in hearing how to bring about positive change by partnerships between council and community groups.

Sally Gamble
President

FRIENDS OF BENDIGO BOTANIC GARDENS

Central Victoria

Much has happened in Bendigo in the 2 years since our last Campsis article. The stars that bring about change and good fortune have at last aligned and are smiling down on the White Hills Botanic Gardens.

We have commenced the long slow process to restore the gardens to their former beauty. 2007 marks the 150th anniversary of the gazetting of the White Hills Botanic Gardens.

Readers who are unfamiliar with Bendigo's history may be puzzled by the gardens name. White Hills today, is a small collection of shops, primary schools and parish churches located about 5 km from central Bendigo on the Northern Highway. But in 1857 it was the busiest goldfield in the area. It was expected to become the town centre and the area was surveyed to create an orderly provincial town complete with Botanic

Garden. However the White Hills goldfield was quickly exhausted and gold was discovered in quartz veins found in the layers of sandstone reefs that run in an East-West line of low rocky hills in the area we now know as Bendigo and Golden Square.

To add to the confusion the official name given to this goldfield was Sandhurst. However to the miners and early settlers living there the area was known as Bendigo after Bendigo the shepherd, who lived in a hut beside Bendigo's creek. (Not bad for an old ex-boxer to have the then, world's richest quartz reef named after him)

Nevertheless the White Hills Botanic Gardens flourished. They were laid out and planted with tree species that were fashionable for the times, shaded trellised walks and numerous beds of flowering shrubs and annuals. The gardens quickly became what must have been an astonishing place of order and a peaceful oasis in an otherwise devastated mining landscape.

What occurred next, happened in many 19th century Botanic Gardens in Victoria, when funds and local interest waned. In Bendigo however, it was not the shortage of funds, but that influential people in the city felt that White Hills was too far away to justify the expenditure, when Rosalind Park and its complex of buildings and small gardens was there to be developed. As a result the last 100 years has seen the Botanic Gardens gradually decline into an open parkland as lawns replaced the garden beds.

However the White Hills Botanic Gardens remain and are much loved by the community. The Friends have been able to become a voice for the community, convey their concerns about the gardens and to assist the City Council prepare the way towards the restoration of the gardens.

The City Council has supported the Friends and City Parks Staff by renovating the vacant caretakers house in the gardens and have made it into it a lovely meeting room and excellent office space. It has rapidly become an effective resource centre for the gardens.

The restoration of the gardens has been a frustratingly slow process for both Parks Staff and the Friends but we are all determined that this time we will get it right. Surprisingly we have been influenced in our thinking by the recent expert renovation and restoration of the Bendigo Town Hall and have come to realise that similar principles apply when restoring heritage gardens. Therefore the first crucial step was to carry out a heritage assessment of the gardens and produce a document to put before Heritage Victoria. This is where we are now.

The next step is to present it to Council for their approval and once this is done the really exciting stage of the process can begin. The City of Greater Bendigo Parks Officers and the Friends are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to become involved in the preparation of a Master Plan that takes full account of the recommendations of the Heritage Significance and Strategy Report.

There have been no grand celebrations planned for the 150th anniversary of the gardens. However the Friends and the City Parks Staff believe that these plans for the future restoration of the White Hills Botanic Gardens are of greater importance. The time to celebrate is when Bendigo has a Botanic Garden that is worthy of the name.

Rodney Orr

FRIENDS OF RBG CRANBOURNE BOTANIC GARDENS

South East of Melbourne, Victoria

It is worth relating that *Campsis* was chosen, many years ago, as the name for our newsletter because *Campsis radicans* goes with the common name Trumpet Flower. This fits with the purpose of the newsletter which is to trumpet information about Botanic Gardens and the activities of member groups. So please be tolerant while I exercise my licence to trumpet some recent notable achievements.

Last September, as part of our conference, delegates toured the Australian Garden, (opened in May 2006) which is a feature garden within the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, 40 kilometres south east of Melbourne. In November 2006 we rejoiced when the Australian Garden won the award as the **Best New Tourist Destination in Victoria**. This led to the garden being nominated for a national award. Late in February 2007 Chris Russell, Divisional Director RBG Cranbourne, travelled to Sydney where the **Australian Garden** received the award for the **Best New tourist Destination in Australia for 2006!** Never before has a Botanic Garden received such recognition. This is cause for everyone associated with Botanic Gardens to celebrate.

Late in March the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne (which embraces Melbourne and Cranbourne) was a finalist in the Garden Management section of the Savewater awards. The Friends of the RBG Melbourne have contributed large sums towards updating irrigation systems to conserve water. Overall RBG Melbourne is using 40% of the water used 10 years ago.

As drought conditions continue for the majority of our members others in the north are experiencing floods. I trust that all members can adapt to our climate and still derive immense pleasure and enjoyment from our gardens.

Alex Smart
President

EUROBODALLA REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Batemans Bay, New South Wales

The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens at Batemans Bay on the south coast of New South Wales has endeavoured to enhance the Gardens experience for those in our community who suffer from some handicap. To this end, specialised features on the Rotary Limited Mobility Walk have recently been developed

Bird Hide

For example, Friends and other volunteers did most of the work in constructing a Bird Hide on the Rotary Limited Mobility Walk. The President of the Batemans Bay Rotary Club formally opened the Hide in autumn of 2006. Following a short ceremony, the Friends of the Gardens served a warming breakfast to about 60 guests at the Visitors Centre.

As well as providing for able bodied visitors, the Hide has a section designed to accommodate a wheelchair or stroller. This fits in nicely with the limited mobility concept of the whole walk.

The Hide faces a small wetland complex with water of varying depths and consequently a variety of wetland plant species. Immediately surrounding the Hide are plantings of nectar producing shrubs and behind, a natural eucalypt forest. These different habitats ensure that a good variety of birds can generally be observed.

Photographs of bird species that are likely to be seen are fixed to the inside of the Hide and there is a blackboard on which visitors can record their sightings.



Granite blocks surrounding tranquil waters



Guides and the old hand pump children enjoy

Sensory Garden

Another attraction has been the establishment of a Sensory Garden, an important component of the Rotary Limited Mobility Walk.

The Sensory Garden was first conceived as a series of raised beds containing plant species with some sensory faculty. However, it soon turned into a more sophisticated project, professionally designed by a volunteer and containing features pertaining to all of the five senses; sight, smell, touch, hearing and taste.

Raised beds allow close access to plants enabling people of all ages and abilities to smell and touch. Paths give structure to the garden and the contrasting surface materials used provide visual and underfoot texture. Large boulders of local granite contribute to form and texture and add height to the landscape. Water creates a liquid dimension, giving a sense of coolness on a warm day. For those with impaired vision it also provides an orientation point.

There is a pergola providing vertical structure, as well as light and shade, and giving visitors a sheltered place to sit and contemplate. A grove of casuarinas trees sigh and rustle as the wind moves through the foliage, while a heavier sound on windy days comes from the tall forest trees nearby.

The saying that a “garden is never finished” is certainly true of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens. Our wonderful Friends and volunteers are continually coming up with new ideas to make our Gardens a continuing work, delighting our visitors and giving the volunteers the satisfaction of a job well done.

Jennifer Liney

FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

Corio Bay, Victoria

In January we welcomed our new Director, Annette Zealley to the GBG. Most recently Annette was Co-ordinator of the Dandenong Ranges Gardens, the group of 8 gardens and arboreta managed by Parks Victoria. Annette is a member of the Executive Committee of BGANZ (Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand) and represent Victoria at the National level.

A Strategic Plan to guide the future development of Geelong Botanic Gardens (GBG) and Eastern Park (EP) is currently being developed for the City of Greater Geelong. The 1995 Conservation Analysis and Master Plan are being reviewed as part of the study. The Friends (FGBG) contributed \$11,000 to the cost of this comprehensive study and are represented on the Project Control Group by Jayne Salmon. Unfortunately we do not attend the Project Working Group meetings. The Geelong City Website www.geelongaustralia.com.au with a link to Eastern Park and Geelong Botanic Gardens has a questionnaire that could be of interest to other Friends Groups. Please fill it in if you know the GBG and EP and the work of our Friends.

In November EP and GBG were included on the Victorian Heritage Register as a site of cultural significance to the State because of their historical, scientific (botanical) and aesthetic values. Registration was the culmination of many years of lobbying by FGBG for acknowledgement that the Botanic Gardens and surrounding Botanical Parkland were interdependent and should be recognized as such.

A historic octagonal rotunda c 1916, situated on a grassy knoll in EP adjacent to the GBG and the Playspace is currently undergoing restoration made possible by a grant from the State Government for Heritage Places and Objects for \$32,000. Annie McGeachy wrote the grant application for us after FGBG had paid for a conservation architects assessment and drawings. Restoration of this unique shelter was recommended in the 1995 Master Plan.

The summer months have been exceedingly busy for the Friends as visitation to the GBG has soared. We have received many international visitors. The drought tolerant 21st Century Garden is of great interest and in great contrast to the older historic gardens which are being managed to cope with much less water. Guided walks with a “waterwise” theme have been popular, the Friends’ Teahouse struggles to keep up with very heavy patronage and the Friends’ Nursery has continued to sell drought tolerant plants.

The GBG Summer Twilight Music was held over 4 Sunday nights in February and again proved very popular with the public. This event is a good source of income. FGBG have recently hosted two excellent illustrated talks. In February Michele Adler spoke about Gardens in South America and in March our speaker was NSW Heritage Officer Stuart Read who spoke about historic gardens in Spain.

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful group of Friends who give many hours a week to ensure that our visitor programmes work and people enjoy their visit to the GBG.

Jayne Salmon
President

AUSTRALIAN INLAND BOTANIC GARDENS MILDURA WENTWORTH

Wimmera & Mallee, Victoria

The gardens in this hot dry summer still attract visitors every day. The trees and shrubs keep healthy with the great attention they receive from the staff. The Sunraysia Farmers' Market held in the grounds every other Sunday morning from 8 a.m. – noon is very successful and patrons are most generous to the Gardens.

We have just celebrated our Gardens Volunteers Day for the second year. It was a wonderful gathering of all groups – the caterers, rose dead-headers, nature-trailers, Z team handymen – builders, weeders and “Garnpang”



Friends and Visitors enjoy the Tractor Train twilight tour of the gardens

Homestead Shop helpers, met in the “Magenta” Shearing Shed Function Centre for drinks and sumptuous finger food, then went on the Tractor-Train for a twilight tour of the gardens, stopping to view the typical Mildura sunset with more platters of fruit and drinks. This event was voted by all as a great evening to get to know each other and learn what others are doing in the Gardens.



Magenta Shearing Shed supper

shown us that they have selective mechanisms to conserve moisture and survive drought conditions.

An exciting new addition to the Gardens has been the Weather Station – an electronic monitoring system which records and transmits temperature, humidity, rainfall, soil moisture and plant responses from selected specific soil type sites around the Gardens. This data is then made available to Gardens Staff and interested people to help in amazing plant culture, particularly in regards to efficient use of water. Already we have discovered some surprising results in the way plants respond to varying conditions. Our native arid zone plants have

*Yvonne Mills
President*

FRIENDS OF THE MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

North Coast, Queensland

This article starts with the best possible news - Mackay has been lucky enough to receive quite a lot of rain over the past few months and the Gardens are really showing the benefits. The growing friends held several very successful working bees late last year to plant up some of the very bare new garden beds in Stage 2. Those beds look amazingly lush now. Several more planting sessions will take place this year to continue to fill in the gaps.

Last year, the Lagoons Gallery hosted an exhibition of botanical art prints of orchids of North Queensland by renowned Cooktown orchid expert and illustrator Lewis Roberts. This was the first time the prints had been shown away from Cooktown Botanic Gardens. Friends were able to purchase four prints of orchids which are relevant to our Gardens. These were framed and presented to Gardens staff at our Christmas breakup dinner in late November to the delight of everyone present.

Once again, *Carols in the Gardens* was a highlight of the Christmas celebrations. The weather was perfect for all the families picnicking on the lawn while they listened to local groups singing and playing favourite carols. This is a very relaxed event for small children and adults alike.

The Botanical Art Interest Group has become so popular they are thinking of meeting three times a month. They held an exhibition in the Lagoons gallery late last year, with a second in May this year – always very well patronised exhibitions.

There will be major disruptions for the remainder of this year while Main Roads reconstructs the road alongside the Gardens. This will become a major arterial road linking to a new bridge to be built over the Pioneer River by the end of 2008. Access to the Gardens is extremely difficult, and parking will continue to be a major problem when large events are happening. On the positive side, the Gardens will be highly visible to thousands of commuters daily on their way to and from work.

This year, Friends will have more excursions and fewer general meetings, following requests from members. Wet weather did not inhibit the first guided walk of the year - in the Gardens – followed by a social BBQ on the Lagoons Café deck. A second guided walk was hosted in mid March by local plant expert and grower Meryl Ritchie to stunning Cape Hillsborough National Park.



Waterwise gardens



Walking in the rain

Six Friends are planning to visit Adelaide in September for the National Conference of Volunteer Guides in Botanic Gardens, and are really looking forward to meeting up with Friends from other areas, hopefully putting faces to some of the names in the *Campsis* articles.

Friends are very important to the successful operations of Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, and we need to find ways of recruiting more members. There are so many organisations trying to recruit volunteers, and fewer citizens with spare time on their hands. Our existing Friends are very dedicated, and we hope to be able to persuade many more of the benefits and fun attached to being a member.

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS MELBOURNE

Melbourne City, Victoria

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Friends – whom RBG Director Dr Philip Moors praised as ‘community ambassadors’ – at a festive party on 14 March, complete with jazz band, wonderful displays and king-size birthday cake.

Founding Members, past Presidents, former Councillors, Gardens Patron Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, RBG Board Members and staff joined with many Friends and supporters to laud our achievements. There were joyful hugs as old acquaintances were renewed.

We now have more than 2300 Members, and have granted more than \$1.3million for projects in the Melbourne Gardens and National Herbarium. Countless hours of voluntary work cement the friendship.

President Janet Thomson announced our next important step forward: the introduction of a Friends Scholarship Scheme by which we will award scholarships valued at up to \$10,000 per annum to aid the professional development and skills of RBG staff.

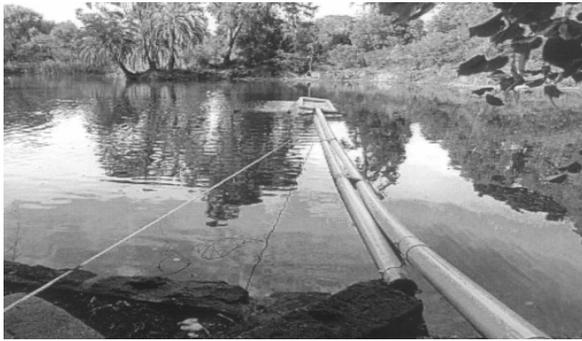
Janet, known to many Association members, was elected as FRBGM President at our 2006 annual meeting. On that occasion, two 15-year and four 10-year Volunteer Service Medals were presented.

Retiring President Irwin Newman is pleased that his pet project, ‘Helping Hands’ is reaching fruition. About seven Friends will have the opportunity for regular ‘hands on’ work this year, caring for the gardens at E Gate and Eastern Lodges. These and several other lodges within the Melbourne Gardens once housed staff.

The Art of Botanical Illustration exhibition in November won great acclaim for our artist Members and raised \$51,000, with the sale of 100 works. (Cards and calendars added another \$7,700.) Donations funded the acquisition of five works for the State Botanical Collection. The Celia Rosser Medal was awarded to Anita Barley.

Botanical illustrations and photographs will be included in “Hidden in Plain View – the forgotten flora” – the RBG’s first touring exhibition of specimens and artefacts from

the State Botanical Collection. It focuses on the non-vascular plants of liverworts, hornworts, mosses, lichens and fungi. Look out for these treasures at Langwarrin, Cranbourne, Swan Hill and Sale. The tour will wind up in Melbourne, closing on 17 December. Details: www.rbg.vic.gov.au and follow the links to the Forgotten Flora.



Topping up the Lake at the Botanic Gardens

After the World Swimming Championships concluded in early April, about 6 mega litres of treated water were pumped from the temporary pools at Rod Laver Arena to the Ornamental Lake at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne. This topped up the level of the lake by about 13 centimetres, to the benefit of its ecosystem and lakeside trees.

The threat of Stage 4 water restrictions lowered expectations for the Growing Friends autumn sale on 17 and 18 March. But the crowds rolled in (despite the fact that Grand Prix patrons occupied most of the street parking), and discerning buyers gave us a satisfying net result of approximately \$19,000. Plants raised to survive current weather conditions were in great demand. GF convener Juliana Horsfall has foreshadowed a greater concentration on dry-tolerant species in future.

As a bonus, 22 people joined the Friends at the sale. Another seven signed up when the South Yarra property of former President David Wilkinson was on show for the Australian Open Garden Scheme. David also sent us a donation from the weekend's takings.

Eight RBG staff will conduct a horticulture course for Friends in April. Their interesting approach will follow the life of a plant being introduced to the Gardens.

Heather Ironmonger

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

Western District, Victoria

On November 12, 2006, we held a huge garden party to celebrate the 140th anniversary of our Gardens on the present site. Hundreds of people young and old enjoyed the live music, old-time games which children used to play, the Friends' plant stall, food and drinks, walks and talks.

It was also 100 years since Charles Scoborio retired at the age of 79 after having served 34 years as our first Curator on the present site. He died six years later in 1912. In recognition of his service the Friends have laid a memorial headstone on his grave in the Warrnambool cemetery. Marie Johnstone has researched his ancestry and it is interesting to learn that he grew up in Cornwall at the famous "Lost Gardens of Heligan" where his father and grandfather had worked as gardeners.

As part of our celebrations the Warrnambool Art Gallery staged an exhibition called "Our Gardens: 140 Years". Adam Harding of the WAG with the help of Pat

Varley and Mandy King used imagery from our records, newspapers and other local sources. The exhibition showcased the history of the Gardens, the curators and their stories as well as a huge photographic display showing our landmark features, our very special trees and panorama.

The Friends Committee organised a grand opening of the exhibition to mark the occasion. In her comprehensive address to the guests who numbered over 100, the Mayor Cr. Glenys Phillpott spoke of the important role of the Friends in the success of the Gardens. Once more the enjoyment of the occasion owed much to the catering skills of Anne Kelly.

To mark a very important occasion, the Committee held its first meeting for 2007 in the Gardens to meet and welcome our new Curator, John Sheely. He is well qualified in horticulture and arboriculture and brings extensive management experience of heritage properties in NSW. The Friends are delighted with his appointment and are sure he will manage well our valuable asset, our heritage.

Unhappily we must end on a note of sadness. Lorraine Richardson is leaving the committee having been a foundation member and having given eighteen years of invaluable service to the Friends. She will be sorely missed and we can only hope that the pressing family commitments which have led to her decision will ease and perhaps allow her to return at some time in the future

Marigold Curtis

FRIENDS OF ORANGE BOTANIC GARDENS

Central West, New South Wales

The 'Happy Hour for Friends' was held on 1st December and gave the committee and other members the opportunity to welcome newer members over drinks and finger food.

The 2007 'Music in the Gardens' was a series of six concerts with the music provided by the Orange Regional Conservatorium. The series started on Friday 2nd February with a 'Big Band Flourish'.

About an hour before concert number two, the skies opened with a violent storm and flooded the Gardens and the concert was cancelled. While everyone rejoiced at the benefits of the badly needed rain, when concerts number three and four had to be cancelled there were cries of 'come again another day not on Fridays'. Concert number five went ahead featuring 'the Human Voice' and the final concert on the 9th March was 'A Symphony of Sounds' with a full orchestra set up across the other side of the Billabong on the bluestone stage, attracting a huge crowd.

Guided Walks on the first Sunday of the month continue to be popular - starting at 8.30am with a Bird Walk and then at 10am a general Garden Walk, sometimes concentrating on a special area or species. The Friend's Discovery Centre is open where we serve tea and coffee with homemade cakes and biscuits and a plant stall sells off excess plants from the nursery not needed in the Gardens.

The deciduous trees in the Gardens and all around Orange are starting to turn various shades of yellow, red and gold for autumn - one of the distinctive seasons in Australia's Colour City.

The autumn colours will be the back drop for the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference to be held here in Orange in 4th - 6th April 2008. The general theme will cover the many aspects of Friends activities in a Botanic Garden from being a 'hands on' garden worker to fund raising ideas all under the topic of "Where Passion bears Fruit"

Margaret Weaver
Secretary

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GREATER SHEPPARTON BOTANIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION

Goulbourn Valley Region, Victoria

Yes, we are still active despite the blow of losing the six-year battle to save the Parkside Gardens site for our future botanic gardens. It has taken fully six months for us to shake our feelings of lethargy and to re gather our collective breath in order to continue our push for a Botanic Garden/Park for Greater Shepparton. During this time we have suffered casualties in that our membership has probably halved with many members deciding that they needed a rest. The big positive that emerged from this battle was that we were able to change our Council and this has bought about a change in the Councils' 'culture'. Jenny Houlihan, previously our Vice President, was a successful candidate. She topped the poll and became Mayor and is now in her second term in that position.

After looking at several possible sites and being aware that Councils' budget is 'stretched' we decided that a previous waste tip site could be developed into a 'Regional botanic park'. The site is approximately 24 hectares in size and will present many challenges. Among these will be the need to be water wise, coupled with the problem of flooding (once floods reappear again) and what to do with the tip mound. This mound is to be capped with clay in order to contain the methane that will continue to be produced from the waste materials within the mound. Challenges are there to be overcome and we are confident that the mound will, in years to come, be the significant feature of the park.

We have had a preliminary meeting with Councillors to discuss our proposal for a regional botanic park. Councillors appeared to be receptive to our presentation but require more information, such as possible funding sources, numbers of volunteers at other gardens and any other relevant information.

Now we have to rebuild our membership. We are confident that there are many who will join us when, our proposal is accepted by Council. In the meantime we will be providing speakers for organizations, such as service and garden clubs, in order to 'spread the word'. We will also be talking with private individuals and organizations regarding funding possibilities.

Bill Brown
Chairman GSBGA

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

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RBG Cranbourne	
Vice-President:	vacant
Secretary/Treasurer	Annie McGeachy
Public Officer	Annie McGeachy
Geelong	
Committee:	
RBG Melb.	Janet Thomson
Ballarat	Judith Bailey,
Canberra	Warwick Wright
Warrnambool	Amanda King
Shepparton	Denise Underwood
Benalla	Betty Lindsay
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Campsis

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important calendar events for inclusion in
the next issue

To ensure publication, please send articles by mid
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Forward all *Campsis* material to:

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OR by post to
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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership of the Association of Friends of
Botanic Gardens Inc is for 12 months from
January 1st. New memberships after August 1st
are valid until December 31st the following year.
Forms available on the website.

Membership fees are \$25

Cheque or Money Order should be made
payable to:
Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc
The Secretary,
16 Pavo St. Belmont VIC 3216

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Visit the Association web site and 'click' on events:

www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/

To include your event on the website contact the Web
editor: E-mail clrdnobs@vic.chariot.net.au

OR for those without E-mail, post details to the Secretary.

September: Monday 24th-Friday 28th.

National Guides Conference.

Royal Botanic Gardens of Adelaide

October: 12th -13th.

**Botanic Gardens of Australia & New Zealand
Congress (BGANZ)** Hamilton, New Zealand.

October: 26th-28th

Benalla Botanica

November Thurs.15th(dinner) Meeting Frid./16th

BGANZ (Vic) Regional Meeting at Colac..

2008

April: Friday 4th– Sunday 6th

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference

Orange Botanic Gardens, Orange NSW

'Where Passion Bares Fruit'

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/

Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens
(BGANZ)

www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/newsletter

For access to the online Newsletter; *The Botanic Garden*.

For an electronic edition register your Friends group E-
mail address with CHABG's secretariat in Canberra.

E-mail Virginia.Berger@deh.gov.au.

www.gardenhistorysociety.org.au/

Garden History Society

www.anbg.gov.au/anbg/

Australian National Botanic Garden

www.bgci.org.uk/

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

www.bgci.org/botanic_gardens/findgarden2.html

A good gardens information site - if you are travelling

Fungimap: www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungi

botanic_gardens-subscribe@yahoo.com.

This site has been created for 'garden' people only. Go to
this site and request to join. You will be able to ask for
information, receive feed back and share your knowledge
with 50 other garden enthusiasts.

The site is protected and monitored by Amanda King.

*The Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens. The views expressed
by contributors are not necessarily those of Association of Friends of
Botanic Gardens Committee. Neither the Association Committee nor
the Association members accepts responsibility for statement or
opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish
reliable information.*

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Members April 2007

A.C.T.

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc., GPO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT, 2601

New South Wales.

Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 1056, Albury, NSW 2641

Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 1068, Batemans Bay, NSW, 2536

Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens Inc. PO Box 17, Orange, NSW, 2800

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney Inc., Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Road, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens Inc, PO Box 1393, Tamworth,,NSW 2340

Friends of Wollongong Botanic Gardens Inc., 61 Northfields Ave Keiraville NSW 2500

Northern Territory

Friends of the Darwin Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 36435, Winnellie, NT, 0821

Queensland

Friends of the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 5653, Gold Coast Mail Centre, Qld, 9726

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Friends Association Inc, PO Box 6850, Mackay, Qld, 4741

Victoria

Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Garden Inc., PO Box 2809, Mildura, Vic, 3502

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc., PO Box 33W, Ballarat West, Vic, 3350

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens & Riverine Parkland Inc., PO Box 589, Benalla, Vic, 3672

Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 117, Strathdale, Vic, 3550

Friends of Burnley Gardens Inc., C/o Burnley College, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond, Vic, 3121

Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Inc., PO Box 391, Castlemaine, Vic, 3450

Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens, 18 Fulton St, Colac Vic, 3250

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 235, Geelong, Vic, 3220

Friends of George Pentland Botanic Gardens, Mark Brown, C/o 18 Waliki Crt. Lara, Vic. 3212

Friends of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 564, Gisborne, Vic, 3437

Friends of the Grounds The University of Melbourne, C/o P&CS Maintenance Section, 625-631 Swanston St., Melbourne 3010 .Att: R Phillips.

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 43, Hamilton, Vic, 3300

Friends of Karwarra Australian Plant Garden Inc., Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama Vic 3766

Friends of Kyneton Gardens Inc, PO Box 1061 Kyneton, VIC 3444

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Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne Inc., 241 Station St.,Fairfield, Vic. 3078

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue, Melbourne, Vic. 3004

Greater Shepparton Gardens Association Inc., 41 Colliver Rd. Shepparton, Vic, 3630

Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens Inc. RMB233, St Arnaud, Vic, 3478

Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens, PO Box 1089, Elwood, Vic, 3184

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 1190, Warrnambool, Vic, 3280

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc., PO Box 412, Berwick, Vic, 3806

Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Inc, PO Box 267, Daylesford, Vic 3460

South Australia

Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Garden Inc., PO Box 2040, Port Augusta, SA, 5700

Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Inc. Botanic Gardens, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Arboretum Inc., PO Box 370, Devonport, Tas, 7310

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Inc., C/o RTBG, Queens Domain, Hobart, Tas, 7000

Western Australia

Friends of Kings Park Inc, Volunteer Lodge, Fraser Ave., Kings Park & Botanic Gardens, West Perth, W.A.

NEW MEMBERS

Friends of George Tindale Memorial Gardens Inc, 3 Brice Grove, Knoxfield Vic 3180

Friends of Malmsbury Botanic Gardens & Environs Inc, PO Box 116, Malmsbury Vic. 3446