



Campsis

Newsletter of the
Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc.
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Campsis radicans (Trumpet Flower)
del. Beverley Graham 1994

From the President

PREPARATIONS for the 1998 Conference of the Association at Mildura are well under way, and the Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens are keenly looking forward to welcoming many Friends from other places at the opening get-together on the evening of Friday 1 May.

The Conference will have as its theme 'Mallee Magic's Contribution to the next Millennium', and you should have received copies of the registration form for the Conference several weeks ago. The early sessions will be held in Mildura, but the later ones will be at the Gardens so that participants can see how greatly the Gardens have been developed in just a few years. The Conference will wind up with a cruise on the Murray River — an appropriate novelty for our annual Conferences.

I am delighted that the Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens are already at work preparing for the 1999 Conference. Members of their Committee attended Association Committee meetings in November and March so as to obtain details of the arrangements for earlier Conferences. The Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens have been quick to accept our invitation to host the 2000 Conference in their city, and they were also represented at the March Committee meeting.

It is most encouraging to know that plans are being made as long ahead as two years. Where will we be in 2001, I wonder?

Yvonne Mills

Friends of Gisborne Botanic Gardens

THE BIG NEWS in our Gardens is probably something every other garden takes for granted. WE HAVE WATER IN THE GARDENS! For the last eight years the huge hurdle has been how, with what and when? The answer to the first

is by tapping into the town supply, after the idea of bores and pumping water from the creek was rejected, with money donated by Western Water and the Friends — it all finally came together in February! This is a big psychological boost for many of us, as it is hard to be optimistic for the future of your carefully propagated plants going into the harsh world when there is not even a tap within coo-ee!

Amazingly, even with El Niño, some of the plants have done quite well with regular hand watering from a truck, but it is nice to lie in bed at 2 a.m. knowing that somewhere in the Gardens, hidden away underground in a tap box, an automatic timer switches on the water to hundreds of thirsty plants on a regular program. Maybe, instead of just surviving they will now actually grow.

Our other exciting news is that our sister city of Gisborne in New Zealand has created an Australian native plant section in its botanic gardens. We have been rounding up some seed for them as they have found it just as hard to obtain Australian plants over there as we have found it to obtain New Zealand plants over here!

Melanie Kinsey

Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens, Mildura-Wentworth

THERE IS A GREAT DEAL of activity and excitement among the Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens as we prepare for the Conference on 2 and 3 May. We have plenty to show you!

The first three of ultimately seven Summerhouses are being built with the willing help, in different ways, of businesses, builders and 'gophers'. These three Summerhouses are in the European, Australian and American sections of the Gardens.

The rose dead-headers are at work at day-break each Wednesday trying to keep up with their job. The roses are looking marvellous, despite the long, hot summer. We had a Rose-pruning Day of demonstrations and classes in July, creating a deal of ongoing interest. The session finished with a friendly barbecue lunch.

A well-attended Open Day in conjunction with the district Oasis Rose Festival was held in October, with Tractor Train tours of the Gardens. Director Peter Smith was the commentator, with Devonshire teas and lunches all much appreciated. The occasion was also the opportunity for the recently-completed Bush Chapel to be dedicated. The Chapel is proving a popular venue for weddings. The nineteenth-century style rural garden around historic *Gampang* homestead is always bright.

Gampang, the original log homestead building from north of Mildura was given to the Gardens in a desire by the owners to preserve this part of the history of the district. Relocated log by log, as a project of the local Rotary Club, it now serves as the social centre of the Gardens, and as a temporary Visitors Centre and home for the Friends of the Gardens.

The Nature Trail adjoining the homestead is full of interest. The Friends are now putting the finishing touches to the signs and explanatory leaflets for the Nature Trail.

We look forward to seeing you in May.

Christine Yates

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

ON 6 MARCH COUNCILLORS of the City of Greater Geelong and the Friends invited guests to a twilight celebration in the Gardens of 'Our Heritage - our Future'. Dr Philip Moors, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne was the speaker.

The event marked the appointment of EDAW (Aust.) Pty Ltd as landscape architects for stage one of the design and development of the Gardens Master Plan, and we celebrated the recent National Trust classification of the Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park. We also celebrated the refurbishment of the 1904 Cabmens' Shelter (a grant of \$10,000 from Parks Victoria was of great assistance) and the restoration of the historic bronze cranes, and we launched the Friends' new Botanic Gardens brochure, video and tax-deductible Gift Fund.

The Gardens and the Friends have received very good local press coverage this summer. We feel at long last that the City is giving recognition

to the Gardens and seeing them as a great tourist attraction, linked to the revitalised waterfront. The Friends have worked very hard over the years to raise the profile of the Gardens and are delighted that detailed design work on the Master Plan has begun. We have two members of the Friends on the Advisory Committee for Eastern Park and the Gardens to progress the Master Plan, and they are kept extremely busy with work on sub-committees.

The Friends have recently set up an office in a portable building at the Gardens, where we also have an excellent meeting-room and the Botanic Gardens Library. Space has been let to Scientific Illustrator Enid Mayfield, who will collect, draw and paint some of the flora of the Geelong region.

The Gardens have become a very vibrant place with the help of the many hard-working Friends who volunteer their time, and with great co-operation from the staff.

Jayne Salmon

Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY organised by the Friends Committee was held as usual at the rotunda on a lovely evening in December. We had been raffling a beautifully-decorated cake for some months, proceeds from which went towards the restoration of the band rotunda. When the raffle was drawn the winning ticket was found to be held by the husband of our hard-working secretary, Kathy Wicherson.

We have formed a small group of Growing Friends under Lorraine Richardson, who meet every fortnight in the Gardens. They have already changed the face of the depot with restored potting sheds and an improved work area. They have visited the Geelong Botanic Gardens to see the excellent work carried out there by their Growing Friends, and were most impressed by their nursery and the work achieved by this group. They came back with many ideas for us to put into practice in our own Gardens.

We have been trying to have a picket fence built to meet the existing jarrah fence that surrounds three-quarters of the Gardens. Tenders are now being sought but, in view of the escalating costs, we may have to build the fence over two years. One section of the fence has been built to a height of 1.8 m 'to keep out the kangaroos'.

The Music in the Gardens program is progressing well; so far we have been blessed with lovely warm weather.

Marie Johnstone, our President, recently announced that we have received a grant of \$5,500

from Parks Victoria to help restore the band rotunda and surrounding beds.

A committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Ellen Dwyer, our Founder President, to organise events for the annual Conference of the Association, to be held here in Warrnambool in April 1999.

Marigold Curtis

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

THE LAST SIX MONTHS have been a wonderful time for the Friends in many ways. The new Growing Friends nursery is now well under way for a productive period, when plants will be produced for various projects. Much experience should be gained by participants, as well as enjoying social activity. A Growing Friends sub-committee has been formed to help them to operate effectively.

Physical effort has not been neglected by the Friends. As the result of many working bees vermin-proof fencing has been placed along three kilometres of the southern boundary of the Gardens. Most of us thought it might never be finished! We are extremely grateful to Melbourne Parks and Waterways for the grant that enabled us to buy the hardware necessary for the task. Many thanks to our supporters.

An information evening in August in the Mueller Hall at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne was held to give an opportunity to city members and interested public to be brought up to date about developments at Cranbourne. A similar night is being arranged for 3 September 1998 at the Nunawading Arts and Entertainment Centre.

Other events to note are a Fungi Frolic on Sunday, 10 May that will be guided by Dr Tom May, an expert in this field (barbecue at 11.30 a.m. and frolic at 1.30 p.m.); and the Friends Dinner on Saturday, 1 August. All welcome, and BYO.

The recent inaugural Friends camp in the flora- and fauna-rich Grampians during the spring season inspired several people to organise similar activities in different places. As a result, a follow-up camp was held during January to enjoy the Victorian high country in the area of Falls Creek. Superb weather, with the odd hailstorm, made for plenty of variety. More of these camps are being planned. On a different note, there has not been a more important time when support was needed by the Cranbourne Gardens. The Friends are running a concerted campaign against the proposal to drive

Ballarto Road through the northern wetlands of the Gardens. An Environmental Effects Statement has been prepared by VicRoads and a Panel Hearing is now being held. The result should be known by the end of May. We have had to summon our strongest efforts to avoid the possibility of a road that would be constructed against all enlightened conservation principles.

Rodger Elliot

Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

THIS YEAR'S BEGONIA FESTIVAL in Ballarat was without doubt one of our best. The Gardens are looking wonderful, and the display of annuals, for which we are noted at this time of the year, looks superb. The conservatory has a good display of Begonias, and we have all been delighted with the attendance.

The Friends have been very involved with the Festival. We are doing very well with our stall in Garden Fair, and the guides have been busy with tours, which were extended through Senior Citizens Week.

We have completed most of the labels of the trees and are ready to cope with orders from other gardens, parks, etc.

This year the Committee has made some changes. We will have only four general meetings in the year, and the August meeting will be held in the morning. Ballarat people do not like going out in the evenings, especially during the winter. Our newsletter will still be posted out monthly. However, we will spend more time with our members, on bus trips to interesting gardens, on bird-watching sessions in our own Gardens and the environs of the lake, and generally having more social functions.

Our next project is to buy a 'people mover', to take our elderly and disabled citizens and visitors on tours of our Gardens.

Joan Garner

Friends of the Grounds, The University of Melbourne

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE'S Friends of the Grounds society has continued its series of bi-monthly meetings with a talk on 'Birds in the University Grounds', a visit to the Vice-Chancellor's Garden and a discussion of the

underground car-park and landscaping of the surrounds, including the South Lawn.

Work has begun on two projects – cataloguing several collections of photographs of the University's changing environment; and labelling significant trees and plants at the Carlton campus.

Future bi-monthly meetings, held on the first Wednesday, include:

1 April: Old Pathology and the Poseidon Courtyard

3 June: The Australian Landscape: Cultural perceptions, geology and aboriginal mythology

5 August: The Potter Gallery: The concept and its place in the grounds.

On 7 October the society will visit the University's Blackwood property and the Garden of St Erth. This will be an all-day meeting, including lunch.

Further details may be obtained from Ms F. de Preu, Grounds Manager, The University of Melbourne (Tel 9344 4212) or the Secretary, Mr W. Pye (Tel (03) 5424 1725).

Bill Pye

Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens

OUR FRIENDS GROUP is rolling along nicely and, having had our first birthday, we are looking forward to a long and enjoyable affiliation with the Friends Association.

Our Friends' Growing Group held a most successful plant sale during the spring Festival, and we have decided to hold an autumn plant sale as well this year. With some of the species that are harder to propagate being grown successfully we now have a bit of a competition going to see who can get the really tricky species up and running. There's even talk of getting a stereo installed to play non-stop Mozart! We'll try anything!

We're all looking forward to a wonderful weekend in Mildura at the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens for the May Conference. Our Friends will be attending in good numbers.

Our A.G.M. was held in March. One of the first jobs for the new committee will be to look over the draft Management Plan for our Gardens. John Patrick Pty Ltd has prepared the plan, which was to be presented for public display and comment towards the end of March. Many historical features may be re-instated and new developments outlined, and this should create great interest.

The Albury Botanic Gardens have succeeded in gaining a seed-bank, which will be part of a network of seed-banks for the Murray and Murrumbidgee catchments, as part of a program from

Greening Australia. Local Landcare and Bushcare groups have been greatly involved in the planning and will take part in education programs, run by the new seed-bank curators and Botanic Gardens staff. In conjunction with the seed-bank a section may be developed as a Bushcare and Landcare Resource centre, which would be great for revegetation projects in our region.

If you're in the area at anytime, drop into the Gardens for a chat and a tour.

Paul Scannell

Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens

IN 1865 the Victorian Colonial Government gazetted the site of the Gardens, comprising 16 hectares 'temporarily reserved for the establishment of a Botanic Garden and for purposes of Public recreation'. Shortly afterwards, Daniel Bunce, Curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens, was invited to provide ideas on the layout and planting of the gardens in a 'proper and scientific manner'. He came to Colac in 1868. No details of his plans are known, except that he established a carriageway in the reserve, and a fence to keep stock out of the garden.

In January 1877, at a time of financial problems, the trustees resigned and handed over the Gardens to the Shire Council. In 1881 a further 8.5 hectares were added to the Gardens, along the Barongarook Creek, to the east. In the 1890s a pavilion was built on the terraces, to be used for catering. Its use declined in time and it was demolished in 1953. In the south-east corner of the Gardens near the old Curator's cottage (1875) a conservatory was established, containing ferns and aspidistras. It was rebuilt in 1930 but eventually fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1969, after the main entrance was moved to Gellibrand Street with the installation of the Bilson Gates in 1962.

W.R. Guilfoyle had passed through the gates many times in the course of his work in the Western District, in the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens, Dalvui, Noorat, Turkeith, Mawallok and at Mooleric, the home of the then Shire President R. Ramsay, who was probably responsible for asking him to inspect and make recommendations on the Gardens. In 1910 Guilfoyle prepared *A Report on the Remodelling and Development of the Colac Botanic Gardens* and a plan.

Guilfoyle recommended easing some of the curves in the carriageway, but was otherwise happy with it. He criticised the 'too many paths and narrow borders or beds, while the general

arrangement of trees and shrubs throughout, is most inartistic and perplexing'. His aim was for 'long views and short vistas between shrubberies of mixed green and coloured foliage ... where pretty peeps occur amidst pines and oaks and elms, of the glorious lake beyond'.

His plan was adhered to as far as possible for the next 25 years or so, though some parts were impossible, such as the development of the Barongarook Creek area, which was subject to flooding. The carriageway and paths are much the same as Guilfoyle found them, though there are five fewer paths. But his influence can be seen in the plants and the planting design. The bed of shrubs on the southern boundary, for instance, provides contrast of colour and texture, while here and there a shrub succeeds in 'imparting a tropical effect', as he wished.

From 1911 to 1960 an enclosure containing kangaroos and wallabies existed between the drive and the creek. In 1961 the Apex Club constructed a new enclosure which lasted until the animals were removed in 1979. In 1946 the Rotary Club established a children's playground alongside the animal enclosure. In 1975 Council gave permission to the Lions Club to set up a fun and fitness track, which extended for 2.7 kilometres, with exercise stations at 300-metre intervals. The caravan park was set up after the opening of the Barongarook Creek area and the building of an access road in 1976.

In 1990 the Gardens were classified by the National Trust, and eight significant trees were identified. A grant of \$10,000 was made to the City of Colac by the National Estate to carry out a conservation study in the Gardens. In the same year a group of local people set up the Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens, as advisers to the Shire Council. Recent activities include the extension and refurbishment of the rose arbour, the reconstruction of pedestrian pathways and production of a visitors' guide.

In March 1993 landscape architects Patrick and Wallace published a report entitled *Colac Botanic Garden: A Conservation Study*, which surveyed and made recommendations on all aspects of the Gardens. Among its recommendations was that the Cottage be renovated and be used for 'seminars, classes, and other educational programmes linked to a restaurant and snack facility'. It noted that the Gardens were extensively used at lunchtimes, and that a restaurant facility could extend their use. Old photographs as decorative features would link the restaurant to the Gardens.

The renovation was carried out in 1996 by the Department of Human Services, and under the auspices of Colac Adult and Community Educa-

tion. The project was overseen by a working party consisting of representatives from the Friends, Colac ACE, Colac Rotary Club, Colac Otway Shire and the Department of Human Services. The Colac Gardens Tearooms were completed in December 1996 and were opened early in 1997 by the Minister for Human Services, The Hon. Denis Napthine, as a training centre for selected disabled clients from Colanda. Since then it has operated as a successful business, serving lunches and teas to visitors to the Gardens.

The Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens, without whose persistence in lobbying the then Commissioners the Cottage would have been disposed of out of hand, have used it as a meeting place since its opening.

Cliff Barley

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens

THE HAMILTON BOTANIC GARDENS proved a popular place for outdoor activities over the spring and summer months.

In November we had a visit from the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens, when we all enjoyed walking through the Gardens before sharing 'gardens fellowship' over afternoon tea at the Cottage. We look forward to visits from other Friends groups, who will always be most welcome.

The Pleasant Sunday Afternoon live music has again been successful this year. One Sunday afternoon of each month from October to April is set aside when local artists, groups and bands donate their talents to any interested people who wish to enjoy the entertainment free of charge. The Australia Day celebrations were held in the Gardens. After the official ceremony people were invited to stay for a barbecue lunch and varied entertainment.

The Friends look forward to having the Cottage open as part of the Southern Grampians Autumn Festival, being held from 17 to 24 April. The Botanical Artists will be painting and will hold an exhibition of their work, and the Friends' pictorial/printed display relating to the development of the Gardens will be open for the first time. Some Abutilons, propagated by the Friends, will be on sale, and afternoon tea will be available.

The subject of signage within the Gardens is to be an important and ongoing project for the Friends, beginning with a comprehensive census of all the plants, which we have begun. At the A.G.M. we were pleased to have our membership numbers increased, including several life memberships. Our guest Mr Andrew Govanstone spoke

with great knowledge on the subject 'The Women behind Alister Clark Roses'. We look forward to the publication, later this year, of his book of the same title.

Before his resignation as Co-ordinator of Parks & Gardens, Mr Bruce McInnes gave the Friends his interesting collections of slides and photographs of the Gardens. We are pleased to say that he will not be lost to the district, and we look forward to having a happy working relationship with his successor, Mr Paul Gangell.

Beris Smith

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW Visitor Centre on the Old Melbourne Observatory site is progressing well, and restoration of the historic buildings is revealing their fine features. It is interesting to learn that an archaeologist is on site whenever trenches are being dug. Much work so far has been underground, replacing plumbing and electrical services. The Global Positioning System donated by the Friends to the Gardens last year is regularly used to link plants with the Gardens' data-base, and is also proving a valuable tool at the trenches to provide an accurate record of the location of the underground services.

Agreement has been reached for the relocation of La Trobe's Cottage to a site about 50 metres from its present position, across Birdwood Avenue to near the northwestern boundary of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art.

The Board is grateful to have received a significant capital donation from the National Australia Bank for the Observatory Gate project. Construction is due for completion in August, with the official opening tentatively set for 6 December.

The Gardens have been officially declared to be free of fire blight. Since the bacterium was discovered in three plants in May 1997 approximately 600 susceptible plants have been removed. The introduction of the organism remains a mystery.

Rod Dunstan, the Gardens' education officer, was farewelled in February after a five-year attachment, during which time student numbers increased from less than 4,000 to more than 25,000 annually. The Department of Education has changed its method of funding from secondment to the provision of financial grants for extension services, prompting Rod's decision to remain in the employ of the Department rather than to apply for a staff position at the Gardens. On 7 April Rod

will give a slide talk to the Friends, describing his overseas tour on a Churchill Fellowship. The Friends will then make him an Honorary Member for two years to assist his expressed desire to stay in close touch with the Gardens.

The Growing Friends celebrated their tenth birthday at a lunch attended by many who have contributed to their success. Sales of plants at their autumn sale on 21 and 22 March passed \$26,000, adding to previous sales of more than \$300,000, which, after payment of expenses, will be available through the Friends to support further projects within the Gardens and the Herbarium.

Two original Growing Friends, Gillian Kirk and Lydia Bartlett, were among four Friends given Honorary Life Membership at our annual general meeting in November. The other recipients were former President Sir Rupert Hamer and Lesley Clark. Although Lesley has retired from the Council and as Convener of the Activities sub-committee, she has offered to continue to organise overseas tours; she has scheduled visits to Greek islands in June and Japanese gardens in November. [Information about these tours is being sent separately.] Janet James now leads the Activities group and has succeeded Lesley on the Council.

Since our last *Campsis* report Friends' activities have included a reception enabling Members to meet the RBG Board, the Christmas dinner, several day trips to country gardens, a welcome to new Members, visits to the Victorian Tapestry Workshop and the Melbourne Wholesale Markets, a film luncheon and two illustrated talks.

A local artist, Marjorie Gillespie, offered to hold an exhibition last November in support of the Friends. Her generous gesture resulted in a donation exceeding \$13,000, the proceeds from the opening function and the sale of paintings.

Four paintings by the renowned botanical artist Marian Ellis Rowan have been added to the RBG's State Botanical Art Collection, one of them, of *Coreopsis lanceolata*, being purchased with funds donated by the Friends. Our own Botanical Illustrators are very active with classes, workshops and meetings. They are planning their major exhibition, held every second year, which is due to open in Mueller Hall on 22 October.

One of the Friends' most-talented botanical artists, Mary Gregory, submitted nine paintings of the family Bignoniaceae at the 1997 Royal Horticultural Society's Exhibition in London. We congratulate her on her award of a Silver-gilt Medal (just one brush stroke below Gold).

We are looking forward to another artistic event on 29 June, when Anne Marie Graham will 'walk us around' her exhibition of oil paintings at Gallery 101 in Collins Street. A Member of the Friends,

Anne has set herself the mammoth task of recording 100 scenes of the Melbourne Gardens. This exhibition of 50 paintings marks the half-way point and the first stop on a statewide tour. The exhibition will be coming to a Regional Gallery near you. Make sure you see it!

Heather Ironmonger

Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens

DURING THE LAST several months the Friends have been active in persuading people that the middle of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens was not the most appropriate place to erect a mobile telephone tower. As part of our campaign we sought the assistance of the Association of Friends and were very pleased to receive the strong support of the Committee. An alternative site has now been nominated as the preferred location for the tower.

Also keeping us busy during the latter half of 1997 was the decision by Central Highland Water to 'cover' the two large open water basins situated within the Gardens. These basins are holding areas for Daylesford's town water, which has received recent publicity as being below health standards. Central Highland Water has held several meetings with the Friends and Council to establish how best to minimise the impact that roofing the basins would have on the aesthetics and operations of the Gardens. The process involved seeking comments from Heritage Victoria and others, which have been incorporated into architects' designs.

A comprehensive Conservation and Development Plan, commissioned by Council, has now been completed. This report will provide the basis for a Master Plan to guide the restoration, development and maintenance of the Gardens. Development of the Master Plan remains a top priority for us as we view it as a necessary element in securing funding and priority in Council works.

Our annual Picnic in the Gardens in February attracted 150 people, with entertainment by the Daylesford Brass Band, local singers and a storyteller. The event is becoming very popular and, thanks to our Growers and others, is a good fundraiser. Our program for the rest of the year includes a guest speaker schedule, further band recitals in the Gardens and further working bees.

Our year continues to be a busy one, but on reflection we are making progress.

David Smith

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens

THE SUMMER SEASON has been long and trying. The Garden staff has had an uphill battle to maintain our Gardens and we anxiously await a break in the weather. We will celebrate that as our tenth anniversary present.

With some financial assistance from the Soroptimists we planted around the Rotunda, which the Friends caused to be restored. It is now returned to its initial glory.

The Bereaved Parents Group has planted a memorial tree at an acceptable spot with an appropriate plaque, to be their place of congregation. A very moving ceremony marked the occasion. We feel that this community purpose is very suitable for our Gardens.

The Rose Show was successful. Through their leadership the Friends contributed significantly toward the continuity of this tradition. We received a gift from the City of Goulburn of some roses developed for, and named after, their city. We agreed a location with our Council and, with the contribution of our labour, this gift is now happily in place.

Also, a trial planting of Victoria Gold has been established. This was made possible through the generous interest of one of our eminent rosarians and the co-operation of the Council. We funded the hire of the machinery to remove some concrete footings and saw the roses prosper in their first term.

Our autumn last year closed with an activity of the GSP Children's Group; again we do appreciate these appropriate community celebrations in our Gardens, which are an important community asset.

Peter Stephenson

Parks Victoria Grants

SOME MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION have already benefited from grants made by Parks Victoria under the Community Grants scheme (which includes Heritage Grants). Information about the program for 1998 is not yet available, but any Friends group wishing to make application may have its name added to a mailing list by writing to Parks Victoria at Vault 11, Banana Alley, 383-385 Flinders Street, Melbourne, Vic, 3000.

It could be useful to ask for a copy of the document entitled 'Community Environment Fund' issued for the year 1997/98. It contains guidelines for applications, an application form and support notes for that form.

- We are told that it helps if grants are
- multicultural
 - involve the community
 - involve more than one facet, e.g., education and community participation.

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc.

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Secretary: Lawrence Cohn
Treasurer: David Baumgartner
Immediate Past President: John Harper
Committee: Eve Brunner, Joan Garner, Melanie Kinsey, Jayne Salmon

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- Corangamite Shire (Camperdown Botanic Gardens)
- Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens
- Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc.
- Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens Inc.
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- Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens
- Friends of the Grounds, The University of Melbourne
- Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens
- Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc.
- Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, Daylesford
- Macedon Ranges Shire (Kyneton Botanic Gardens)

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