



# Campsis

*Campsis radicans* (Trumpet Flower)  
del. Beverley Graham 1994

Newsletter of the  
Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc.

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## From the President

THE 1998 CONFERENCE in Mildura gave us a wonderful tour of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens — and to think that the land was acquired only ten years ago — brilliant speakers on important issues, a 'bush' breakfast before the annual general meeting of the Association at the Garpang Homestead, ending with a peaceful river cruise on the Murray to say farewell. The dedication and hard work of all those involved were indeed an inspiration.

In July, as President of the Association, I had the opportunity to meet the other members of the Committee. Discussion covered many subjects, including the hosting of the 2000 Conference by the Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens, which they wish to make an 'international' conference. The Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens hosted this meeting and provided us with a delightful lunch. Gisborne will be the venue for the next Committee meeting, to be held in November.

Plans for the 1999 Annual Conference of the Association to be held in Warrnambool are taking shape and we are looking forward to having Friends' groups down here on Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 April. The Conference Committee is working hard to engage interesting speakers, with tours of Tower Hill, Koroit and Port Fairy highlighting the Conference coastal theme. A post-Conference tour taking in the Great Ocean Road and the surrounding district will be optional for Monday 19 April. Brochures are being prepared for events planned for the four days 16 to 19 April, and will be sent out shortly.

We are keen to show you our 19th Century botanic gardens and the nearby picturesque scenery with its famous coastline.

**Marie Ziebell**

## From the Secretary

AT THE Annual General Meeting in May the following were elected as members of the Committee for the year 1998-99:

President: Ellen Dwyer (Warrnambool)

Vice-President: Jeff Gates (Albury)

Secretary: Lawrence Cohn (Melbourne)

Treasurer: David Baumgartner (Melbourne)

Other members:

Eve Brunner (Melbourne)

Joan Garner (Ballarat)

Melanie Kinsey (Gisborne)

Jayne Salmon (Geelong).

Unfortunately, because of ill health Ellen Dwyer was unable to take up the Presidency. The Committee therefore appointed Marie Ziebell, the Chair of the Warrnambool Conference Committee, to take her place as President. We hope that Ellen will have regained her health and will be with us at the Conference next April.

Members may not all be aware that John Harper, who was the President during the year 1996-97, died early in August after a long illness. At the time of his death he was the President of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

**Lawrence Cohn**

## Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens

THE BALLARAT FRIENDS have had a very busy and enjoyable time over the last few months. Our 'Growing Friends' do a wonderful job, selling plants and making money for us, and the 'Guiding Friends' have been busier than usual over the winter months.

The Growing Friends are to be found at the back of the Robert Clark Centre, and are open for sales every Tuesday between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

and on the second Sunday of each month between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Free guided tours are also available on the second Sunday of each month at 2 p.m., commencing at the Robert Clark Centre, or by appointment. During Ballarat's 'Spring Garden Calendar' we also offer guided tours at 10.30 a.m. each Wednesday in October and November.

In July we again took part in 'Winter Wonderland', which is part of the Ballarat Winter Festival. Many horticultural, craft and music groups were involved in this event at the Centre, where they provided displays, free information and background music. The Friends provided plant sales and our members attended as 'hosts' in the Conservatory. Also during the Winter Festival we held our Winter Luncheon, with Sarah Guest as speaker. Both these events were most successful.

We were once again involved in the Schools Gardens Award. Four of our members volunteered to judge school gardens in the Western District and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. This year sees the scheme celebrate twenty-one years.

In October Rosemary Alexander is giving us two lectures as part of the Garden Lecture Series 1998. Rosemary is Principal of the English Garden School at the Chelsea Physic Garden, London.

Our major project for the year has been the funding of stage one of the replanting of the 'back walk' of our gardens. This is an exciting project and one in which the Friends have been anxious to be involved. Plantings are now under way and this large area will be looking magnificent for the Begonia Festival in March.

This year we changed our general meetings from monthly to four meetings a year, with the August meeting being in the morning. We have had excellent attendances, especially at our morning meeting.

**Joan Garner**

### **Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens**

**A**LL IS NOT WELL in the Friends' camp at present with our new Council and Chief Executive Officer failing to endorse the Landscape Architects chosen to undertake the Design, Development and Documentation of Stage 1 of the Landscape Master Plan for the Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park. Stage 1 is the north-west extension of the Botanic Gardens, which links to the new waterfront development on Corio Bay. This first stage is crucial as it would give the Gardens a 'presence' and address. At present they are hidden behind the brow of the hill and are hard to find.

The Friends have supported the Master Plan since its inception in 1994 and have carried out various stand-alone projects outlined for the Gardens in the Conservation & Management document. However, unless Stage 1 proceeds immediately all our good work in raising funds and thousands of man-hours in voluntary labour over the past twelve years will be of little value. Quite a depressing thought.

The people counter attached to the front gate is providing much-needed information about visitor numbers. 9,750 people visited the Botanic Gardens during the week-end of 26 and 27 September. The front fence desperately needs to go out further as the Gardens are fragile and cannot cope with such large crowds. Our Tea-house recorded record sales, the Spring Guided Walk was well attended and we had a very healthy plant sale, all thanks to the Friends.

A start will be made on the computer cataloguing of the Gardens Reference Library in October, with the help of Deakin University. We have a grant and money from the Friends, and we hope for some help from the Council to carry out this project.

Rod Dunstan has assessed the potential of the Gardens for structured educational programs and has made recommendations for a pilot program. Again, the Friends are helping with funding and may provide back-up for teaching staff when the program begins in the first term of next year.

The press has been advised of our difficulties with Council. We hope they will be able to bring pressure to bear, so that the Gardens do not become a casualty of the scheme of economic rationalisation.

**Jayne Salmon**

### **Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens**

**O**NE HUNDRED MILLIMETRES of snow was a wonderful sight in early July. Many locals and visitors enjoyed not only the vista of snow-covered conifers but also the views of the white countryside from the top of Wombat Hill. Unfortunately the heavy snowfall caused a fair amount of damage, with fallen tree limbs keeping the Gardens' repair crews busy for a month.

The town water supply for Daylesford and Hepburn Springs is stored in large basins located in the centre of the Gardens; the basins were constructed in the 1880s. As part of a scheme to purify the water supply the local water authority is presently covering the basins. During the planning stages the Friends' Committee was active in

consulting with the Council, Central Highlands Water, Heritage Victoria and others to lessen the visual impact of these basin covers. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of October.

Hepburn Shire Council has allocated funds for the production of a Master Plan to guide development within the Gardens. The Friends have welcomed this, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to get commitment and funding without the backing of a credible strategic plan. It is hoped that our Plan will be produced by the middle of next year.

We are again planning one or more picnic functions with entertainment in the Gardens. These events will be held within the period of the tuberous begonia annual display, between February and April.

## David Smith

### Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

We are delighted that Sir Ninian Stephen has accepted our invitation to become President of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. Sir Ninian, a former Governor-General, is a neighbour of and regular walker in the Gardens. Both he and Lady Stephen were active participants in the Association's Mildura Conference last May.

Sadly, our former President, John Harper, died in August after a long illness. John joined our Council in March 1994 and became closely involved in the organisation. The Friends plan to donate a seat to the Gardens in appreciation of John's outstanding contribution to the Friends.

Work on the Observatory site continues, but we do not yet have a date for our move into Observatory Lodge. The official opening of the project has been postponed until February, at the earliest. The large Arthur Boyd tapestry, a gift from Tattersalls, was unveiled recently at the Victorian Tapestry Workshop. Tracie Laws, Divisional Director of Public Programs and Development, will outline the history and proposed use for old and new buildings on the Observatory site at our annual meeting on 10 November.

Another Divisional Director, Richard Barley (Melbourne Gardens), has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship and expects to spend about two months in mid-1999 inspecting botanic gardens in the United Kingdom and Europe.

The Friends have granted \$15,000 for a complete redesign of the Perennial Border, and look forward to seeing it burst into vivid bloom late in summer. In an innovative move, Gardens Division

invited Friends to volunteer two positions, involving a regular commitment to help the Gardens' horticulturists maintain the new bed. Friends often express a wish to undertake hands-on work in the Gardens, so we hope this trial will lead to further opportunities.

Another recent Friends' sponsorship enabled Terry Smyth, who is in charge of the Chinese Collection, to spend three months working at the Kunming Institute of Botany in Yunnan Province.

The Growing Friends Spring Plant Sale took place on 10 and 11 October; sales passed \$24,000, almost a record. For the first time a pre-sale 'preference' opening was held on a Saturday for the benefit of Members who are at work and not able to take up the privilege of visiting the nursery on Friday mornings. This was initiated after several Members noted this disadvantage among their answers to a recent survey. This provided us with many useful suggestions for the future. A very strong preference was expressed for talks and activities focused on the history and operations of the Gardens and the Herbarium. The aspects of membership that people 'enjoyed most' were, in this order, talks, our newsletter and magazine, the Botanical Illustrators' classes and exhibitions, day trips and the Growing Friends (including their sales).

The *Art of Botanical Illustration*, the exhibition staged every two years by the Friends, will be open daily in the Mueller Hall between 22 October and 8 November. This is the Botanical Illustrators' fourth exhibition; each has surpassed the previous one, and we can look forward to a superb show, with more than 150 paintings selected for hanging.

Flowers arranged by more than 20 of Melbourne's leading florists (including flowers from the Gardens at Cranbourne and Melbourne) filled Gardens House to welcome Spring at a very special Friends' function on 15 September. Unfortunately rain, hail and icy winds took us back to mid-winter during the afternoon session. Our Patron, His Excellency the Governor, and Lady Gobbo attended the evening reception. Mrs Dorothy Jessop, aged 104, who lived at Gardens House from 1941 to 1957 when her husband was the Director of the Gardens, was an excited guest. We held a silent auction for the generously-donated flowers. It was a great party in a beautiful setting, and raised more than \$2,500 towards our sponsorship of the Perennial Border.

A busy program of talks, tours and demonstrations lies ahead, with 1998 being brought to a close with our Christmas dinner. Following the tradition set by John Patrick and Stephen Ryan for a light-hearted after-dinner talk we are delighted that

Sarah Guest will fill this rôle on Wednesday 2 December. We would warmly welcome any from the Association's members who could join us on this occasion.

### Heather Ironmonger

### Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

AT OUR ANNUAL luncheon last month Andrew Lawson, the English garden designer and photographer, spoke to a rapt audience of 130 on his favourite subject, 'Colour in the Garden — its harmonies, contrasts and effects'. He showed us his huge collection of slides of gardens famous for their structural form and design. He was later shown our Gardens and was most impressed with the Guilfoyle layout and marvelled at the size and age of the Moreton Bay figs.

The activities of the Friends are now wholly taken up with preparations for the 1999 annual conference. The rotunda is to be renovated and the fernery replanted after maintenance work is carried out. We are also designing an interpretative board for the main entrance.

With the help of John Hawker and archaeologist Jeremy Smith from Heritage Victoria we have retraced the original paths and beds at the main entrance. We would like to replant these beds as they were originally planned.

The Growing Friends have been planting out espalier fruit trees to add to the original tress planted some 30 years ago in the Curator's cottage garden. Their work has been mostly taken up with the identification, listing and labelling of all the trees in the Gardens, an ongoing project.

At our annual meeting in July Marie Ziebell was elected President, Ellen Dwyer Vice-President, Mandy King Secretary and Kathy Wicherson Treasurer. At the meeting Marie announced that the Hon. Richard McGarvie had graciously accepted our invitation to be Patron of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens. We were delighted to learn that he will be in Warrnambool with us in April and will officially open the conference.

### Marigold Curtis

### Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens

ON WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST the Benalla Friends celebrated their tenth anniversary at the annual general meeting for 1998, in the Art

Gallery in the Gardens overlooking the lake. It was a momentous occasion with many of our Foundation Members present. Other local members and interested persons were joined by visitors from neighbouring areas in the north-east.

Mrs Dulcie Sanderson was elected President for 1998-99, taking over from Mr Peter Stephenson.

Mrs Ethel Stephenson, our Inaugural President from 8 June 1988 to 5 August 1992, and formerly a member of the Committee of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria), who has been totally devoted to the cause of the Benalla Gardens over the past ten years, was awarded our first Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her vision and enthusiasm in the formation of the Friends and her continuing dedication to the cause of our Gardens.

To further mark our Tenth Anniversary Year the marketing division of Telstra very kindly selected a scene of the Benalla Gardens for the front cover picture of the 1998 telephone directory for our area of Alexandra, Benalla, Myrtleford, Seymour and Wangaratta (V07Y). This picture features the beautiful sculpture of the Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop memorial. It is very exciting to have this scene daily before the eyes of all those tens of thousands of people who are constantly using the V07Y directory.

The Friends' first priority in the early days of our formation was the replacement of the long-gone sign 'Botanical Gardens' over the main entrance gates. This sign has complemented the splendid work carried out by the Rotary Club of Benalla in 1989, when they installed replica wooden gates for the Gardens in exactly the same style as that of the early original gates. The next priority was the matter of fencing the Gardens, taking a number of years to come to fruition.

The ever-supportive Rotary Club of Benalla, in conjunction with the Friends, the Dunlop Memorial Committee and Delworks, the Shire of Delatite's Parks and Gardens contractors, is standing by to do the voluntary labour required for the erection of the long-awaited Rose Gardens frontage fence. The fence, a chain and bollard style, will make a definite statement of perimeter in the life of Benalla's green space, the Benalla Gardens, at the same time being somewhat of a deterrent to pedestrian traffic through the roses. The fence will further enhance the setting of the Dunlop memorial sculpture.

The grandstand pavilion in the Benalla Agricultural and Pastoral Society showground in the heart of the city will again be the venue, as it was last year, of the 'North-east Victoria Rose Show' on Sunday 1 November during the Rose Festival. The Friends are represented on the Rose Show Sub-

committee, which includes members of the Agricultural and Pastoral Society, the Benalla Garden Club and the Rose Festival Committee.

The occasion of the Rose Show is for all rose growers, adults and children alike, as well as the professional rose growers and exhibitors who give such constant support. The Rose Show, with generous assistance from sponsors and services, features a most handsome display of almost 100 named varieties of roses specially chosen from the Benalla Rose Gardens, and arranged by the staff of Delworks.

### **Katia Fregon**

### **Friends of the Hamilton Botanic Gardens**

**T**HE DEVELOPMENT of the garden surrounding the Cottage in the Hamilton Botanic Gardens is of current interest. This project has been instigated by the Friends, but with help and expertise from others. The aim is to have the garden complement not only the Cottage, but also the Botanic Gardens. It will be welcoming to visitors and will be planted, where possible, with plants from the 1800-1900 era, in keeping with the Cottage. As part of the Autumn Festival conducted by the local Shire Council in April, the Friends had a successful open day at the Cottage, and were happy with the attendance and the spirit of the day.

An agreement between the Friends and the Council of the Shire of Southern Grampians has been formalised by the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement has been enabled the Council to provide liability cover for the Friends in their activities within the Gardens, among other things.

Since acquiring a computer the Friends have already begun to create a comprehensive listing of the flora within the Gardens — old lists have been integrated and updated. This will be an ongoing task.

Plans are underway to have a plaque manufactured and displayed noting the historic connections that Ferguson, von Mueller and Guilfoyle had with our gardens.

Some members journeyed to Mildura for the annual conference of the Association in May. All who attended enjoyed the week-end, and congratulate the organisers for such an interesting and diverse program. We look forward to visiting Warrnambool in 1999.

### **Beris Smith**

### **Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc. A0026805Z**

*President:* Marie Ziebell  
*Secretary:* Lawrence Cohn  
*Treasurer:* David Baumgartner  
*Immediate Past President:* Yvonne Mills  
*Committee:* Eve Brunner, Joan Garner, Melanie Kinsey, Jayne Salmon

#### *Members of the Association*

Central Goldfields Shire (Maryborough Botanic Gardens)  
Corangamite Shire (Camperdown Botanic Gardens)  
Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens  
Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc.  
Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens Inc.  
Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Inc.  
Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens  
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne Inc.  
Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc.  
Friends of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens Inc.  
Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc.  
Friends of Mansfield Botanic Park  
Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.  
Friends of the Port Fairy Botanical Gardens  
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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