



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

# Campsis

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

A0026805Z

ISSN 1320-8578

## From the President

FIRSTLY, ON BEHALF of the Association I thank the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne for letting us use the Baldwin Room in the renovated Observatory House for our Committee meetings. I congratulate the R.B.G. on the wonderful way in which so much of the grounds and buildings of the old Melbourne Observatory have been renovated, and a new Visitor Centre building added. I also congratulate the Melbourne Friends in gaining a permanent home in the historic Gate Lodge, the one-time residence of the Observatory caretaker.

Those who attended the May 1999 Conference were well rewarded by the splendid hospitality of the Warrnambool Friends and the interesting and entertaining selection of speakers. Morning tea served on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning at the conclusion of a guided tour of the Botanic Gardens was a further delight for the visitors, who were greatly inspired by seeing the magnificent result of Guilfoyle's vision. The organisation of the Conference showed how much can be achieved by a small and dedicated group.

One of the major issues raised by several of the Friends groups represented during the Conference was that of obtaining expert advice on various matters of concern about the ongoing care, maintenance and development of the Gardens with which they were associated. Nine member Friends groups were later invited to a meeting convened for the purpose of seeing how the Association might be able to help address these problems. Although representatives of only three of the groups were able to attend the meeting, a lengthy discussion took place. Subsequently our Secretary met John Hawker of Heritage Victoria, with whose help a letter was sent to the Friends groups concerned, advising them to urge their Councils to seek appropriate expert help by applying to Heritage Victoria for grants for the purpose.

The Albury Friends made good use of their visit to Warrnambool by reviewing their plans for the 2000 Conference, to be held in Albury from 7 to 10 April.

They had thought of a Conference of an international character, on the challenge of 2000 and beyond, but the theme will now be on a local level. Speakers have been engaged, and will discuss the challenges of keeping Botanic Gardens relevant to their communities in the years ahead; community partnerships with Botanic Gardens; and Botanic Gardens' partnerships, events and values. There will be time for discussions to take place in groups.

At the annual meeting of the Association held during the Warrnambool Conference it was agreed to alter the rules so as to allow Friends of Botanic Gardens anywhere in Australia (or, indeed, overseas) to become non-voting Members. Those alterations have now been accepted by the Victorian Office of Fair Trading and Business Affairs, and we hope soon to be welcoming new Members from Queensland, South Australia and New Zealand.

The 2001 Conference will be hosted by the Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens in the year of the 150th anniversary of their Gardens. Their President, Jayne Salmon, who is also now our Vice-President, and her Committee are now at the early stages of what will be a very busy year for them.

I close by thanking those Friends groups that have offered to sell tickets for the 'Wonderful Week in West Australia' raffle, which was organised to raise funds for the 2000 Conference. Any who would care to help may do so by getting in touch with the Albury Friends—they are all looking to welcoming you next April.

Jeff Gates

## Friends of Albury Botanic Gardens

CATCHING UP on the last edition of *Campsis* in March would have been impossible without the aid of our monthly newsletter—it makes such an excellent diary!

In April our second Autumn Plant Sale netted the group just over \$2,300 and brought congratulations

and joy to our weekly, morning and evening, growing groups, at present only about 10 in number. With a big turn-up of helpers on the day the event was over in two and a half hours, leaving several hours to enjoy an afternoon in the Gardens. One of our live-wire members came up with a novel idea—aprons made of green- and beige-coloured material with a large double front pocket (a money pocket), and sporting our Gardens logo on the top front, several of which were purchased by members and the rest kept for us at future plant sales. The Spring Plant Sale on 26 September raised another astonishing \$3,250, with 20 Friends resplendent in their striped aprons.

Our 8-member contingent who went to the Warrnambool Conference survived the 8-hour bus trip to and from, and thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie and the chance to drive a 13-seater Toyota bus.

Additions to our Botanic Gardens' library of slides, videos, newsletters and various horticultural publications continues to grow. Through the generosity of our Curator the library is available for use in identification and cultural notes during working, and so is a great asset for the members. A slide night, viewing the best of a 460-slide collection of local wildflowers, will end a very active year for our 63 members.

With the excellent spell of autumn weather the Gardens took on beautiful rich colours and it was worth braving the crisp mornings and evenings to smell the autumn and to crunch the leaves underfoot.

Greening Australia's Seedbank is now well established in our Gardens. It is proving very successful with networking seeds and instructing Friends interested in making trials of smoke-water germination of some seed types.

Perhaps the most important happening in our Gardens during the last 11 years has been the construction of garden office facilities and a public toilet amenities block.

A regional Botanic Gardens Conference was attended by members of the Gardens staff in Wagga Wagga during early August. The Volunteer Guides Conference at Mt Annan was also attended by staff, and by Friends guides, so helping to develop new ideas for use in our programs, tours and other activities. The Australian Network for Plant Conservation Conference will be held at Lake Hume Resort from 24 to 29 November, and will provide positive outcomes for the Botanic Gardens and our region.

The Association's 2000 Conference has been high on our agenda with planning well under way. A flyer will be in circulation by the end of November.

A social evening with a difference presented itself early in September when the Albury-Wodonga Bonsai Society held an exhibition and demonstration weekend at the Albury Commercial Club. A group of Friends met for dinner and were then enthralled for more than 2 hours while Bonsai masters planted 21

Chinese Shimpeku junipers on a huge slab of granite, in a spectacular forest formation.

A magnificent Camellia bed, planted out earlier in the year from cuttings propagated by the Friends growing group from the collection of Albury Friends Tom and Olive Savige, is progressing well and will soon bring a new splash of colour to the Gardens.

Two upcoming projects will be planting out rose beds and erecting arbours according to the plans of J.E.R.Fellowes, the curator from 1901 to 1937.

**Jeff Gates**

### **Friends of Gisborne Botanic Gardens**

NOT MUCH HAS BEEN HAPPENING in our Gardens but we are pleased to report that the Macedon Ranges Council has organised a gift for our sister city, Gisborne in New Zealand. It is to go in the Australian section of their Botanic Gardens. The gift is a 2.5 metre bronze sculpture, 'The Rainmaker', by local sculptor Anton Hassall, and will be installed just before Christmas.

A small delegation will accompany the sculpture across the Tasman. Stephen Ryan, our President, will be part of the delegation and will be taking with him our good wishes for the future of the Gardens.

As we marvel at the Maori sculpture of Tanemahuta in our Gardens we hope the Kiwis will enjoy our contribution to their Gardens.

**Melanie Kinsey**

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

OUR WINTER LUNCH held annually in July was a great success. Our guest John Patrick spoke to a large audience on the importance of revegetating our public parks with appropriate planting. Proceeds from the lunch were directed to the Friends' Bollard Project.

It is expected that the Bollards of Daniel Bunce, our first curator, and a lady visitor to the Gardens will be installed near the entrance to the Gardens early in December. The project is costing \$13,000 and will be part of the Geelong Bay Walk Bollard Project, which has had much publicity within Australia and overseas.

The Friends hosted an 80th birthday party for George Jones, our first President, at the end of August.

An Education Kit has been developed by Rod Dunstan (ex-RBG, Melbourne) in conjunction with the Friends and Staff and is now available for primary teachers to use. The City and the Friends have funded this important project.

Our Tea House is busier than ever as more people discover the friendly service and excellent food. A review of procedures is currently being undertaken by the local Department of Health and Safety to ensure that we meet the stringent health standards now imposed by Government.

Spring is a very busy time in all Gardens, and the Voluntary Guides are extremely busy with bookings from groups wishing to tour the Gardens. It puts a strain on our resources when everything seems to happen at once. The Growers nursery is also very busy.

The City of Greater Geelong has announced the appointment of Mr Rob. Small to the position of general manager, environment and recreation services. We welcome this appointment; we believe Mr Small will have responsibility for the Botanic Gardens and the Master Plan. He is at present the general manager for parks with the Auckland Regional Council and has 20 years' experience in senior parks management. He will take up his appointment in December.

We have confirmed that the Association's 2001 Conference will be held in Geelong on 6 and 7 May.

**Jayne Salmon**

### **Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens**

THE ASSOCIATION'S 1999 CONFERENCE held in Warrnambool in April was considered a great success—even the weather performed well, being sunny and calm throughout. The diverse program highlighted the Western District and included tours not only of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens but also of the Koroit and Port Fairy Botanic Gardens. To judge from the many notes we have received, the conferees were delighted with the speakers, the venues, the hospitality and the tour of Tower Hill State Game Reserve and the Great Ocean Road.

From the hosting of the Conference the Friends have gained confidence and enthusiasm to extend their research and volunteer work, and it has lifted the profile and public awareness of both the Friends and the Gardens.

After recovering from the Conference it was back to the drawing board. Much had been brought forward because of the Conference, especially the restoration of the entrance bed and the fernery. The labelling program continues in conjunction with the compiling of a database of some 700 plants, for which a grant has been sought through Arts Victoria — Local History Grants Program.

Many of our 'von Mueller' trees (*Pinus radiata*) have been removed along Botanic Road as the Council considered them to be a safety concern after an accident nearby; however, they will be replaced. The

Friends hope with the help of the Warrnambool Woodturners to recycle this significant timber into saleable items.

Five memorial seats have been placed in the Gardens and, as more are required, we plan to continue this program.

Our AGM was held in July, when the following were re-elected: Marie Ziebell (President), Mandy King (Secretary) and Kathy Wicherson (Treasurer). This year the AGM was held over lunch at the Warrnambool Club; our guest, Marnie McMillan of 'Three Oaks', Timboon, spoke on 'The Garden as a Picture'.

A film luncheon was held in August to raise funds for a watering system for the Growing Friends area. This is to be followed by further fundraising in the form of catering for lunch at 'Minjah', Woolsthorpe, when Australian Garden History Society members attend during their post-conference tour of the Western District.

In October a well-earned treat for the Friends was a visit to Bickleigh Vale at the invitation of the new owners of 'Mistover', where, on a perfect Spring day, 45 Edna Walling fans enjoyed a barbecue lunch and a visit to four beautiful gardens in the village. We were all very impressed with the 'special place' and hope the Bickleigh Vale Residents Group are successful in their application for a Local History Grant to enable them to commission a Conservation Management Plan for the village.

'A Day in the Gardens' is planned for 26 March 2000, and will include a music program, a plant sale by the Growing Friends, an art and craft display, and afternoon tea from the rotunda. Further celebrations are planned in the Gardens to commemorate Federation in 2001, and the Warrnambool City Council is encouraging community groups to 'come together' in celebration.

**Marie Ziebell**

### **Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens**

OUR FIRST FUNCTION after the summer was on Mothers' Day, when about 500 people visited the Gardens for train rides, Devonshire teas, lunch or just a stroll. The trees and shrubs were looking so splendid after the hot days. Our Rose Pruning Demonstration Day on 3 July was very well attended. A film was shown first, with practical instruction from Peter Smith and Friends later in the rose garden.

We have a good show of Sturt's Desert Pea in the car-park beds and are thrilled to see some plants reappearing where they had been planted a few years ago.

In September there was an Open Day for all Friends and their friends who are not yet members. During the day the official opening of the American Summer House took place. Also during the winter we were given instruction in the covering of books by the librarian at Wentworth. Since then we have had a working bee at the Information Centre (Garnpang Homestead) to start covering some of the wonderful books given to the library by the family of Dr Peter Watson, who was a very keen Friend.

A sub-committee has been formed to gather ideas for the celebration of the Gardens' 10th birthday, which will be in May 2000, when a booklet of the first 10 years' history will be launched.

Our first day excursion is planned for November, when about 50 members will visit several gardens, hosted by the Berri/Barmera Garden Club. Our tractor-drawn train (our 'people mover') is a very popular attraction, with a guided tour for many clubs and coach groups visiting the Gardens. A group of U.S.A. journalists were very impressed, and we hope for good publicity from this visit.

Our next project is to erect a display gazebo near the information centre. Many plantings are well established and now present a great spring display—the Rose Garden is an absolute delight, so please do come and visit us.

**Christine Yates**

### **Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens**

**T**HE LAST FEW MONTHS have seen much progress in the Gardens. The replanting of the 'Western Bed' has begun. This border runs the full length of the Gardens proper on the Gillies Street side. It has been designed to incorporate ten different themes. The Friends are delighted to be involved in the planning, planting and propagating of plants for this project.

The themes are:

- Grey/silver foliage
- Roses (a gift from the Horticultural Society)
- White
- Grey/purple
- Hot colour scheme
- Asia collection
- Native
- Fragrant
- Winter
- Ornamental grasses.

The first three stages are now planted; we celebrated the event with a barbecue lunch with the Gardens staff.

We are also looking forward to being involved in the restoration and replanting of the Wetlands area in

the North Gardens Reserve. This project is to commence early next year.

Plans have been released for a National Prisoner of War Memorial, to be located in the South Gardens Reserve. This is a wonderful project for Ballarat and the Gardens. We are all excited because this spot was chosen for such an important national memorial.

A small group of people from Buninyong has decided to work toward restoring the historic Buninyong Botanic Gardens. As we are both within the confines of the City of Ballarat they have become a voice on our Committee, rather than form their own Friends group, and we will be helping them in any way we can to restore their Gardens. They may well form their own Friends group at a later date.

Our Growing Friends are continuing to raise substantial funds for the Gardens. They are busy preparing large numbers of Begonias for sale at our annual Begonia Festival, to be held from 3 to 13 March 2000. Our plant labelling group has been very busy with outside orders, and this is also adding to our funds.

The Guiding Friends are also busy again, now that Spring is here, and we also have bus trips organised for our members to visit the Rose Society display, featuring 100 years of roses, the Castlemaine Garden Festival, and a trip to the Geelong Botanic Gardens and Jenny Smith's garden and maze. Our annual Christmas barbecue will be held at the end of November, with Friends from Buninyong and Daylesford joining us.

Our Winter Lunch was again a great success, with David Glenn from Lambleys Nursery as our speaker. Ruth Pollard was a great hit at our general meeting, talking on Herbaceous Borders—very topical, with our work on the Western Bed. Guy Cooper was our speaker this year for the 1999 Garden Lecture series.

The Ballarat Spring Garden Calendar has us all busy, with the Friends organising tours and plant sales. Cheryl Maddocks will be with us for three days to promote our Spring Events.

We have had a very happy year as a Group and are looking forward to a short break at Christmas. We wish you all a Merry Christmas!

**Joan Garner**

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

**T**HE GARDEN SURROUNDING the former caretaker's cottage (now known as 'The Cottage', the home of the Friends) has been the focus of activity since our last report. The garden path was redirected to a new gate in the picket fence and planting of the new lawn and garden has been completed.

The basic inventory of the plants in the Botanic Garden has been completed, with approximately 600 plants being named and mapped in their garden beds. The benefit of this work, carried out by a few dedicated people, will be invaluable in so many ways.

The abutilon collection is now being worked on. The aim is to have all plants officially identified, photographed and catalogued. This project, with the approval of the Ornamental Plant Collections Association of Australia, will probably take 12 to 18 months to complete.

All legal steps for the creation of the ancillary trust, and the allowance of tax deductibility of and tax exemptions from income generated by the Friends, have been completed. It was a long slow road, but we look forward to the advantages of this new status.

Last month the Friends enjoyed a tour of the newly-opened 'Eucalyptus Discovery Centre' at Coleraine, followed by a picnic lunch and a guided tour of the Points Arboretum. For many years the Arboretum has been a source of great interest, and now with the opening of the Eucalyptus Discovery Centre the opportunity has been widened to accommodate many more groups of varying ages and interests.

With the season of spring the Hamilton Botanic Gardens are looking well and being enjoyed by local people, as well as by many visitors. Our guides have led several groups through the gardens in recent weeks.

**Beris Smith**

### **Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne**

**W**E HAVE ENJOYED unprecedented success with an outstanding program of speakers in the past six months. Mueller Hall has virtually been filled each time, and our revenue has been boosted by about \$11,000 as a result. Speakers have included RBG horticulturist Terry Smyth describing her most recent secondment in China; landscape gardener and writer Michael McCoy; Peter Valder on his book *The Garden Plants of China*; Caroline Davies on Italian gardens; Anne Latreille on her book *Kindred Spirits*, recording the botanical correspondence between Jean Galbraith and Joan Law-Smith; Celia Rosser celebrating the completion of her momentous project to paint all known Banksias; and Richard Barley on his Churchill Fellowship tour of gardens in the United Kingdom, France, Italy and Switzerland. (He concluded that RBG Melbourne compared very favourably in design and standards of horticultural maintenance, whereas public gardens in the United Kingdom had suffered from cutbacks and compulsory competitive tendering.)

Natural history was the focus of talks by Ian Endersby (insects) and Dr David Beardsell (the Yarra river), and for a family day at Alan Reid's Timelines Field Centre and Glenburn.

Continuing our series of talks with Ornamental Plant Collection Association of Australia colleagues, Dr Bob Withers shared his extensive knowledge of camellias. We look forward to a morning session on lavender on 23 November with Rosemary Holmes of Yuulong Estate.

We had day trips to the Dandenongs in autumn and spring, and another to Tynong North and RBG Cranbourne.

Scheduled for November and December are talks about two magnificent forthcoming books—one a survey of the first 300 years of Australian botanical art, the other reproducing Redouté's paintings of Australian flora. We will celebrate Christmas at a late-afternoon party at Gardens House on 14 December, at which Association members would be most welcome.

We are preparing for our Annual General Meeting on Monday 8 November, when the Chairman of the RBG Board, Mr David Adam, will be the speaker.

After six years as the Friends' administrative Officer, Margaret Howes retired in mid-October and has been succeeded by Virginia Henderson. Virginia, having worked previously in the Gardens, will readily fill the rôle in which Margaret demonstrated such resourcefulness and efficiency.

Two weighty matters have been concerning the Council of the Melbourne Friends: the RBG Director has asked us to consider our future directions, and the forthcoming imposition of the GST has already affected the sum payable in advance for annual membership subscriptions. Additional expense, due to complex GST record-keeping requirements, is also expected for the Friends' Shop. Although the year to 30 June was another year in which the Shop takings were a record, leading to a budget for the year to 30 June 2000 of \$500,000, the net profit of \$50,000 in the year just past is likely to be adversely affected by the GST complications.

I can report, yet again, a successful Growing Friends Plant Sale in October, with takings of about \$26,000—a total representing thousands of potted plants! As always, Gardens' staff and Friends volunteers ensured a well-conducted event. The Friends have appreciated behind-the-scenes tours of the RBG nursery during September and October.

In the Gardens, the Species Rose Collection has been revamped and replanted in a sunnier position, and the rose celebrating the centenary of the Rose Society of Victoria—'Victoria Gold'—is displayed in another bed. South East Water is funding a redesign, with interpretation, of the Water Conservation Garden.

The new Observatory Gate area continues to attract crowds every day. A stainless steel and marine ply

sculpture by Glen Dunn adds a dramatic statement to the Pacific Dunlop Plaza. The imposing sphere, donated by Philip Morris-Australia/NZ/South Pacific, was rolled into place early in October. The Voluntary Guides, whose walks start from the Visitor Centre, have adopted a uniform which increases their visibility in the Gardens.

The fourth and final volume of *Flora of Victoria* was published at the end of September, a milestone for RBG scientists and illustrators who have worked on this project for more than 10 years. Another major development has been the establishment of a Molecular Laboratory in the basement of the Herbarium, with the appointment of Dr Frank Udovicic as Molecular Systematist. The Maud Gibson Trust and the Baker Foundation have generously assisted the project.

The second Pacific Dunlop Fellow, Niels Klazenga from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, took up his appointment in August.

### Heather Ironmonger

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

*President:* Jeff Gates

*Vice-President:* Jayne Salmon

*Secretary:* Lawrence Cohn

*Treasurer:* David Baumgartner

*Immediate Past President:* Marie Ziebell

*Committee:* Joan Garner, Joyce Gates,

Melanie Kinsey, Janet Thomson

#### *Members of the Association*

Central Goldfields Shire (Maryborough Botanic Gardens)

Corangamite Shire (Camperdown Botanic Gardens)

Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens Inc.

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 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, Cranbourne Inc.

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 Inc.

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc.

Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, Daylesford

Address: Gate Lodge, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Vic. 3141

Telephone: 03 9848 7029, Fax: 03 9650 7723