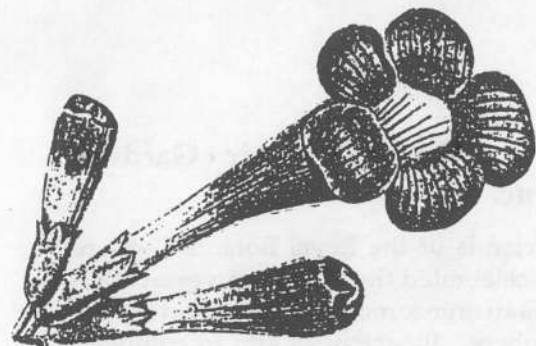


Campsis

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

As I foreshadowed when I wrote to Members in August, here is the first issue of the Association's newsletter. I must say immediately that I am most grateful to those Members who took up the invitation to contribute to what I hope will be a continuing and informative half-yearly publication.

It was one of my daughters who suggested the name *Campsis* for a publication that is intended to trumpet to all the Members the news they want their fellow Members to hear. The drawing beside the name is that of a *Campsis radicans*, the nature of which seems appropriate to an association that hopes its roots will go in all directions.

The second issue will be published in April 1994, so you are all asked to provide copy to me not later than 31 March. Remember that the first week in April will be the week of Easter.

Greetings and Good Reading to you all.

Lawrence Cohn

1994 Seminar

The Association's 1994 Seminar will be held on Saturday and Sunday 14 and 15 May, at the Institute of Educational Administration, Eastern Park, Geelong. The Institute is ideal for such a Seminar, with suitable meeting rooms and modern motel-style bedroom accommodation for about 80 people. The theme for the Seminar will be 'Growing together towards 2000'. The Geelong Friends have made excellent progress with their plans for the Seminar, having already sent invitations to several speakers. They have also obtained promises of sponsorship from a number of companies. Full details will be sent to Members and other prospective participants towards the end of this year.

Albury City Council

Council is conducting a logo competition to promote the identity of the Botanic Gardens. The competition finished on 22 October; winners will be announced on 3 November. The overall prize is \$500, Tertiary/Secondary Student prize - \$100, Primary School prize - \$50 and pencil set to the

student. It is planned to launch the Logo at a production called 'Planted', performed by the Murray River Performing Group in the Botanic Gardens, in November.

The Gardens has a collection of northern NSW and Queensland rainforest trees but very few other natives. A native garden is planned in a narrow undeveloped section, covered with kikuyu and separated from the gardens by a large stormwater drain. Our objectives are to develop the site, screen the drain and promote our native flora to the public.

Approximately 1,000 punnets of seedlings will be planted in early October for a display flowering by Christmas.

Brown's Lagoon/Therapeutic Gardens

After two years of behind the scenes planning, Brown's Lagoon Therapeutic Gardens are becoming a reality. Contractors have commenced construction of a \$65,000 toilet block to be completed by January.

Designs for other structures are almost complete. Committee members will submit various costed items to the service clubs for inclusion in their coming service projects.

Response to the competition has been surprising and gratifying in these tough economic times with generous promises of manpower, materials and equipment. The committee's job is to combine all offers and make the project work.

Installation of the low levee bank will commence shortly without disturbance to the peaceful setting of Brown's Lagoon.

B van der Weyde
Parks Supervisor

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc.

The Friends of the Geelong Botanic Gardens launched their Spring Programme with a very successful plant sale organised by our Group of Growing Friends on Sunday 12 September. The plants offered for sale were propagated from Gardens stock and included rare and unusual plants

which were not widely available. The publicity with photographs in the local newspaper was excellent; so, despite the weather being most unkind, we were almost overwhelmed with buyers.

The Friends' Tea House has enjoyed a profitable winter, assisted by mild weather and word being spread that we serve beautiful toasted sandwiches and home-made cakes in very attractive surroundings.

An early morning tea followed by a spring walk with the Voluntary guides was the Friends' activity for late September and a day trip to three gardens on the Mornington Peninsula took place in October.

The committee endeavours to provide a diverse programme to encourage member participation.

Jayne Salmon
President

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc.

The City of Hamilton was fortunate enough to be chosen as an employment provider for the Landcare and Environment Action Program (LEAP Scheme).

Organised through Glenormiston College, we placed 10 unemployed youths for 26 weeks into 2 major projects within the City. Firstly, 5 youths were to carry out restoration work on the island within the Gardens small lake area and restore the perimeter fence, which is an ornate iron perimeter fence of the Gardens.

Secondly, 5 youths were allocated to the task of restoring the Cemetery which had become very overgrown; many fine tree species were being overcome by weed and brush infestations.

The Botanic Gardens crew cleared extensively the island and the willows surrounding the lake so new plantings could take place. The plantings consisted of native grasses and shrubs to provide more habitat for the moving population of native ducks that visit the lake. We added other plants to add colour and interest in winter and early spring being *Papyrus* grass and *Prunus* species.

This crew also prepared and painted the two main gates to the Gardens, which highlighted these features within the Gardens. This scheme was of major benefit to the Botanic Gardens and assisted with providing personal motivation and job skills for these 10 people. It also assisted some of the employees with work locally on the completion of the scheme.

B McInnes
Parks & Gardens Superintendent

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

Last year the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc. celebrated the tenth anniversary of its establishment (as an unincorporated body), and now has over 1,100 Members. Its activities aim to combine a sharing of interest in things botanical with an increase in knowledge and fund raising.

A shop selling a variety of goods, with a policy of Australian-made, is open seven days a week. It has recently moved to new premises alongside the Kiosk by the Central Lake.

The *Growing Friends* are a dedicated band of volunteers who meet each Friday to pot, tend and care for cuttings and seeds provided by the Royal Botanic Gardens' staff. These are sold throughout the year to Members and to the public at two major sales, Spring and Autumn.

The *Art of Botanical Illustration* exhibition last year attracted a tremendous amount of public interest. This year, a Botanical Illustrators group has been formed. Classes are held regularly and there is always a waiting list. Exhibitions are being planned for 1994 and 1996.

A busy *Activities Sub-committee* arrange very popular outings, talks and tours to a variety of places within and outside Australia.

Over the last year the Friends provided more than \$50,000 to the Gardens for several purposes, including a watering and misting system in the Tasmanian Rainforest area signs, software for a mapping program and a collecting trip to China. The Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Trust Fund, a tax-deductible fund set up by the Friends, also provided \$10,000 to help pay for the publication of Vol. 1 of the *Flora of Victoria* by the Gardens.

The main problem confronting the Friends at present is inadequate accommodation in the Astronomer's Residence of the Old Observatory, near the Herbarium. Discussions are being held with the Gardens management, which we hope will lead to more space on a ground floor.

For the future the Friends is already planning to be part of the Sesquicentenary celebrations of the Gardens which will take place in 1996.

Margaret Howes
Executive Officer

Friends of Nyerimilang

At Nyerimilang we have for some time been planning what we have called the East Gippsland Botanic Garden, to be established on land available in the Park. This will be an educational display of the principal plants to be found in the area, and in particular the unique aspects of the local flora.

Last year, we applied to the Minister for Conservation and Environment, whose department is responsible for the Park, for a grant to help us get started. The good news is that we have been successful in obtaining a grant of \$6,700. This will enable us to begin development with earthwork, watering systems, fencing and paths.

The work will be assisted with voluntary labour from the Friends, and expertise will come from the Bairnsdale Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants, and should begin shortly.

Doug May
Hon. Secretary

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

The Warrnambool Botanic Gardens are entering into a most exciting new phase. Earlier this year the City Council received a grant which is to be used for a Conservation Analysis and for a Policies and Management Plan for the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens.

The firm of S.F. Landscape Consultants Pty Ltd was appointed to undertake the task and to prepare a plan which is to be presented to the Council by April 1994.

We are now trying to find ways of encouraging people to come forward with old photographs and memories of the Gardens. Historical records have been searched and we have unearthed a fascinating film made in 1927. The film is an overall view of Warrnambool emphasising the main features of the City and with a specific section devoted to the Botanic Gardens. It shows rose-covered arbours which have long since disappeared. It is an extremely valuable find.

The original Guilfoyle plan of our Gardens cannot be located (unlike Hamilton which has his plan for their Gardens), but we hope to gather as much photographic material as possible to give us more information on the history of the Gardens throughout the years.

The last achievement of the Friends was the restoration of an old gas lamp in the Gardens. There was a fine base already there but the top was missing. It was being used as a support for a climbing plant. A local theatrical group, the Holiday Actors, gave two wonderful performances in

the Gardens and the proceeds were donated towards the restoration of this lamp.

The Gas & Fuel Corporation put in the fuel line free of charge and also donated another beautiful gas lamp which will be erected very soon. We are extremely grateful to both organisations for their generosity.

I hope all the Friends groups have the same co-operation with their Council and other organisations as we have enjoyed here in Warrnambool.

Ellen Dwyer
President

Committee Members 1993-94

President

Jayne Salmon (representing the Geelong Friends)

Vice-President

Margaret McOrist (representing the Port Fairy Friends)

Secretary

Lawrence Cohn (representing the Melbourne Friends)

Treasurer

David Taplin (representing the Melbourne Friends)

Immediate Past President

Philip Clingin (representing the Ballarat Friends)

Other Members

Philip Ayton (representing the Melbourne Friends)

Neil Laird (representing the Cranbourne Friends)

Ian Rossiter (representing the Ballarat Friends)

Ethel Stephenson (representing the Benalla Friends)

Members

City of Albury

P O Box 323, Albury, NSW 2640

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Inc.

P O Box 655, Ballarat, Vic. 3353

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens, Inc.

P O Box 589, Benalla, Vic. 3672

Town of Camperdown

P O Box 14, Camperdown, Vic. 3260

Friends of the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens Inc.

P O Box 391, Castlemaine, Vic. 3450

Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens
12 Grant Street, Colac, Vic. 3250

Friends of the Cranbourne Botanic Garden Inc.
P O Box 434, Cranbourne, Vic. 3977

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens
C/- Geelong Botanic Gardens, Eastern Park,
Geelong, Vic. 3220

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc.
P O Box 230, Hamilton, Vic. 3300

Shire of Kyneton
P O Box 151, Kyneton, Vic. 3444

City of Maryborough
P O Box 194, Maryborough, Vic. 3465

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.
C/- National Herbarium of Victoria,
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Vic. 3141

Friends of Nyerimilang
C/- Mr D May, Post Office, Metung, Vic. 3904

Friends of the Port Fairy Botanical Gardens
P O Box 51, Port Fairy, Vic. 3284

Town of St Arnaud Council
P O Box 129, St Arnaud, Vic. 3478

Friends of Sunraysia Oasis Botanic Gardens
C/- 325 Eleventh Street, Mildura, Vic. 3500

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens
C/- 10 Canterbury Road, Warrnambool, Vic. 3280

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc.
P O Box 154, Narre Warren, Vic. 3805

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