



Campsis radicans (Trumpet Flower)
del. Beverley Graham 1994

Campsis

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

Your 1994-95 Committee has had two meetings so far this year. As the new President, as well as being a committee member for the first time, I am impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of the members to the cause of Botanic Gardens in Victoria

I am particularly pleased that this issue of *Campsis* includes news of a greater number of Gardens than was the case in the first two issues, and I encourage every Member of the Association to contribute to future issues.

The Conference in Geelong in May last was most successful, and our thanks go to the Geelong Friends for their great effort in arranging it. I believe there is much to consider from this Conference. Those who attended it have already received a record of the proceedings, and copies are still available in Geelong if Members that were not represented at the Conference wish to have them. Planning for the next Conference, to be held in Benalla on 29 and 30 April 1995, is well under way. It is being arranged by the Benalla Friends. I hope that these dates are already being entered in diaries.

Because much interest has arisen among several interstate Friends as a result of our conferences, the Association's Committee is examining the desirability or otherwise of forming a national organisation of Friends groups. We will shortly be inviting Friends groups throughout Australia to express their views about such a concept.

This Association is, of course, relatively young. I believe it is important in these circumstances that its Members actively participate in the formulation of its future direction by putting forward ideas and suggestions at any time. This may be done through any member of the Committee, or by writing to Secretary Lawrence Cohn.

Brian Chandler

Committee 1994-95

The following were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 14 May 1994 at Geelong. They will hold office until the close of the Annual General Meeting in 1995.

President	Brian Chandler (Benalla)
Vice-President	Max Pawsey (Wilson Botanic Park)
Secretary	Lawrence Cohn (Melbourne)
Members	Philip Ayton (Melbourne) Joan Garner (Ballarat) Ian Rogers (Geelong) Ethel Stephenson (Benalla)

David Baumgartner (Melbourne) was appointed Treasurer later in the year. Jayne Salmon, last year's President, is now the Immediate Past President.

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

Last year, under the National Estate Grants Program 1992-93, the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens received a substantial grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for a Conservation Management Plan to be drawn up for the Gardens. A Steering Committee was formed, comprising John Hawker of the Department of Planning and Development, Warrnambool City Councillors and officers, several Warrnambool people and two members of the Friends' Committee. S.F. Landscape Consultants (Ross Ingram), Patrick Mallon and Jill Orr-Young were then appointed to analyse, study and draw up a Management Plan.

The grant, to which the Warrnambool City Council had made a substantial contribution, enabled extensive research to be carried out and a most detailed plan was proposed for the Gardens' future direction. The consultants put great emphasis on the cultural significance of the Gardens to Warrnambool and district, and the important William Guilfoyle early plan and influence.

The Friends arranged an afternoon in March, held in the Gardens, when the public could meet the landscape consultants, make proposals and discuss future development and improvement.

The Management Plan has recently been completed and reviewed by the Warrnambool City Council. It has now to go back to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for endorsement, and shortly will be presented to the Council for final approval and implementation of the works involved.

After a successful visit to Nerrin Nerrin, Kornong and Wooriwyrite by a small group of the Friends it was decided to organise another trip to see these beautiful gardens in late November.

Activities include several other garden visits in the Spring and a lunch organised for 19 October, when Lisa Stafford of Eco Landscape Design will speak to us. 'Music in the Gardens' is planned as usual during the Summer months.

During the past year the number of Friends has increased from 55 to 78, no doubt due to the interest shown in the Conservation Management Plan.

Marigold Curtis
for Ellen Dwyer, President

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc.

The Conference 'Growing together towards 2000' held in Geelong for the Association on 14 and 15 May was a great success. The excellent speakers provided stimulation and much food for thought for the eighty who attended the Conference. Their addresses have been published in the proceedings of the Conference, copies of which are still available from the Friends.

Activities enjoyed by the Geelong Friends over the past few months have included an illustrated address by Janet Thomson, a voluntary guide with the Melbourne Gardens, on her visit to Yunnan province, China.

The winter luncheon held in July is an annual fund-raising event. The guest speaker, botanic artist Jenny Phillips, delighted the audience of over one hundred with a history of botanic art and some beautiful slides.

At our August gathering we viewed slides of the Chelsea Flower Show, Padua Botanic Gardens, Monet's garden, Kew Gardens and Edinburgh Botanic Gardens, taken by George Jones on his recent overseas tour.

The voluntary guides have introduced a walk focusing on plants used by the aborigines. This was presented to the general public in July and was attended by forty people. The walk was promoted again on 9 October, the day of our Spring plant sale. Rod Dunstan, Education Officer of the Melbourne Gardens, spoke to the group last month and aroused much enthusiasm. A walk will be planned to coincide with the exhibition 'It's a Rare Thing', which will be held in Geelong from 13 January to 12 March next.

Several of our Growing Friends have been working with Gardens staff to broaden the perennial border and fill it with new soil. The Friends are now responsible for the care and maintenance of this area, a planting plan has been drawn up and new plants have been purchased by the Friends.

At the Conference in May it was announced that the Geelong Botanic Gardens would undertake a Conservation Analysis and Management plan, to be funded by the City of Greater Geelong and the Friends. Submissions have been received and the name of the consultants who will undertake the work will be announced shortly. The brief includes the area of Eastern Park that was originally part of the Botanic Gardens. This is a most exciting project and one where the Friends' input will be of great importance.

Jayne Salmon, President

Friends of the Cranbourne Botanic Garden Inc.

The Cranbourne Friends have had a successful year with many activities, such as working bees, guided walks, guest speakers and possum prowls. Our Annual General Meeting was held on 8 October, and we were fortunate to have Peter Brown, a fauna expert, to speak to us.

A survey weekend, the first, is to be held on 29 and 30 October. We will have the help of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (Botany Research & Survey Group). The survey will look at pre-burn and post-burn flora. A fortnight later there will be a working bee on the Saturday, concentrating on the control of unwanted plants in the bush area.

At Christmas time a party, followed by a walk, will be held on Sunday 11 December, and a second walk will take place on Tuesday 27 December.

A night prowling is scheduled for Saturday 18 February, when Members and their families can search for night-life in the Gardens.

The Cranbourne Garden is relatively new, but is already full of interest and well worth a visit. You will find us on Ballarto Road, Cranbourne (Melway map 133, F9). Visitors at our activities will be very welcome.

Dnelda Edmondson, Co-Secretary

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra

Our Friends group began in 1990 and has received strong support from management and staff of the Gardens. Activities have included talks by staff and other notable plant science experts, horticultural practice, garden visits and trips of special interest.

The Friends initiated a Guides training programme at the Gardens in 1992, which has been very successful; a further intake was trained in 1993. Regular walks are held on four days a week, and these are supplemented by special booked tours for groups.

Recently a Growing Friends group has been launched with enthusiastic support by Members and considerable help from the staff of the Gardens nursery. We hope this will go on to be a stimulating activity for the Members, as well as being a good fundraiser for the support of Gardens projects.

Situated as we are between the mountains and the sea, the Friends have the opportunity to enjoy the alpine flora of the Kosciusko area and the coastal heaths of our Jervis Bay annexe. At Jervis Bay the Gardens is able to grow many species that would not tolerate the Canberra climate.

A Spring festival 'Spring Fling', is presented by the Friends in October to attract the public into the Gardens with music and entertainment, displays and plant sales.

Our newsletter is published four times a year and features articles about special plants and exhibitions, as well as news of activities past and planned and items of general interest to Members.

Pauline Wicksteed, Vice-President

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens Inc.

This time we are not telling you about ourselves, but about one of our trees. Its story has been written by a member of our Committee.

A Taste of History in Benalla Botanical Gardens

Standing between the Art Gallery and the main entrance to the Benalla Botanical Gardens is an often seen, but rarely recognised, Australian rainforest tree.

Although named after the famed traveller Matthew Flinders, the genus *Flindersia* has not travelled all that frequently into the southern States. This particular species, *Flindersia australis*, is more frost-hardy than most and copes relatively well with our winter extremes. As its specific name suggests, it is a more southern species reaching into the Northern Rivers District of New South Wales, although it typically occurs along the Queensland coast.

Often attaining a height of 35-40m under natural conditions, the species was prized as a timber tree. The yellow-brown greasy wood was used for all general building purposes and was most popular for flooring. Being exceptionally durable for a rainforest

timber, it was even used for fencing where eucalypt timber was scarce. Such was the value of the timber that it earned the species the common name of 'Teak'. It was also given the name 'Crow's Ash', alluding to a resemblance to the wood of the European ashes (or *Fraxinus* spp.). However, it is not only the timber that resembles the Old World ashes. The leaves, too, are pinnate (as in the ashes) and the bark is grey-brown and scaly. In open situations Crow's Ash will develop a dense rounded crown which, like its namesakes, provides excellent shade.

Although never strong in flower, shedding leaves from the branches as they bear the small creamy blooms in summer, Crow's Ash is quite ornamental. The flowers are followed by woody fruit or capsules, consisting of five boat-shaped valves covered on the back with blunt prickles, in late autumn or winter. The dried fruit capsules are popular for floral arrangements, but the fruits, unlike those of their relatives the *Cirtus*, are definitely not edible.

Perhaps the most unusual use ever recorded is that of dye-making from the leaves. Depending upon which mordant is used, the resulting colour is gold, yellow, grey or green.

Benalla's Crow's Ash is one of only a handful of mature specimens known in Victoria, which is surprising given that it responds well in cultivation, and in my experience grows fairly readily from seed. The species certainly deserves a greater role in Victorian Gardens.

Philip Sutherland

Friends of Colac Botanic Gardens

During 1994 the Colac City Council received the Conservation Study prepared by Patrick and Wallace. After discussion with the Friends various improvements suggested in the Report are now in progress.

Most recently the original Rose Arbour has been renovated and, following a suggestion by a member of the Friends, has been doubled in length - a total of 32 metres. The new Section has been planted with pairs of *Alister Clark* climbing roses.

Carol Barley, Vice-President

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc.

During the winter months work in the Hamilton Botanic Gardens has been restricted by unseasonable weather. However, it has been possible to complete a number of tasks, such as pruning of hedges, mulching of beds and making improvements to the flight aviary. The aviary has now been closed for the breeding season. The annual visit by a tree surgeon is steadily improving the health and appearance of many of the trees.

A group of Friends has expressed willingness to help the Gardens staff in embarking on a new programme of propagation of the *Abutilon* collection. This collection has already attracted much interest and it is hoped to develop this project further.

A special feature of the Gardens is a Weeping Elm with a span of about five metres. The Friends, with special contributions from two members who have childhood memories of the tree, recently donated a fine hardwood circular seat around the trunk of the tree. It is already attracting favourable comment from visitors.

Preparations are in hand to welcome and show the Gardens to a group of forty members of the Adelaide Friends, who will be touring the Western District in mid-November. We look forward to their visit.

Representatives of the Hamilton Friends found the May 1994 Conference arranged by the Geelong Friends most interesting and valuable. They offer congratulations, as to both contents and organisation of the event.

Myddelton Lewis, Secretary

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc.

Contrary to our expectation expressed in the April edition of *Campsis*, we have not moved into Gardens House, but to the ground floor of the Astronomer's Residence. Both staff and Friends have appreciated the more spacious accommodation offered by our new office. This will be our home at least until the end of 1994. The Board changed its plans for Gardens House, which has been impressively refurbished and is available for hire for private functions.

With the Government requiring the Board to raise 20% of its income in future, the Friends' Council is reviewing its existing funding policy in order to maximise its support for the Gardens. A Working Group has been established to ensure closer liaison between the Friends and the Gardens administration. Its six members, who meet informally, will not have decision-making powers.

The flourishing Gardens Education Service has taken delivery of a Yamaha buggy donated by the Friends. This will facilitate the transport of equipment, bringing all areas of the Gardens within reach for class activities.

The Growing Friends raised a record sum of \$25,000 at their spring plant sale on 8 and 9 October - a splendid reward for a great deal of hard work by the 24 members of this group. Stock propagated as a result of the redesign of the Perennial Border of the Gardens was highly sought after.

Since 13 October the Botanical Illustrators have been holding a major exhibition in the Herbarium Hall, under the umbrella of the Melbourne Festival. The exhibition ends on 30 October.

Our initiative to seek donations from members of the public for seats for the Gardens has proved very rewarding. Including the two given by the Friends, 15 have now been presented or promised - some of them as memorials. We would be happy to give details of this scheme to any Members of the Association.

The Friends' Shop, which serves as an unofficial information centre because of its central location adjacent to the Tea Rooms, has been giving customers Friends' membership brochures, together with a complimentary greeting card and an invitation to join a Gardens mailing list. Two Gardens Christmas cards are available this year for the first time.

Recent Friends' activities have included lectures on Elm Tree Management and Fossil Evidence of Ancient Forests in Antarctica, winter and spring strolls through the grounds of Government House, and a very successful floral art demonstration and luncheon. A tour was made of the Broken Hill and Sunraysia districts, and a day trip to the Cranbourne Botanic Garden.

Heather Ironmonger

Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc.

The Ballarat Friends group was re-formed at the end of 1992, and was incorporated on 3 September 1993.

On two Tuesdays and one Saturday in each month the Growing Friends meet at the nursery of the Gardens to propagate and grow begonias of all sorts and other plants from the Gardens. The first, very successful, plant sale was conducted as part of Gardenfest at this year's Begonia Festival in autumn. A spring sale is planned for Melbourne Cup weekend, 29 October to 1 November.

The History Friends have prepared a history of the Gardens from their beginning in 1857 to 1906, and are now working on the next period. Profiles of former curators and other notables associated with the Gardens are being built up, and a folio of photographs to form a pictorial history is being collected.

The Guiding Friends are presently training a new group of volunteers, who will be available to show visitors around our wonderful Gardens.

The first project for the Friends this year will involve the draining and replanting of the Tilley Thompson beds. Tilley was a tireless worker during and after World War 2 and the inspiration towards Ballarat's Arch of Victory and the Avenue of Honour. Agricultural drains will be connected to the recently-installed main drainage system.

The Morey Gates have been refurbished for their centenary, and stand, resplendent in their new paint, proudly showing the original coat-of-arms of Ballarat. The Busts of the Prime Ministers that were removed by vandals have been restored. Vandalised statues have been repaired, and 'Spring' and 'Hercules', both destroyed, are to be replicated in Carrara marble by sculptor Andrew Patience.

The Clark Centre has been started. The old conservatory has been demolished, the residence removed and the site cleared. Foundations of the new much larger conservatory are being installed. We expect the conservatory to be ready for the Begonia Festival next year and the Resource Centre a little later.

Judith Bailey

Albury Botanic Gardens

The Albury Botanic Gardens' new brochures have brought positive comments from visitors. The glossy photographic brochures to promote the Gardens are 'going like hot cakes', according to the Tourist Centres. The staff have noticed people wandering around the Gardens with the two self-guiding walks brochures (Rainforest Walk and Heritage Walk), very intent on reading about what they are observing. We are pleased with the brochures' success.

A new display board at the main entrance of the Gardens is planned for the future, to display posters, photographs and notices of forthcoming events.

Our Parks Supervisor, Bob Van der Weyde, retired from Albury City Council in July. Bob took a great interest in the Gardens and was one of the driving forces behind the Browns Lagoon Therapeutic Gardens.

Patrea Cook, Curator

Friends of Kings Park, Perth

As 1995 marks the centenary of the formation of the Kings Park Board, the first major review of the developed areas of the Park since the establishment of the Botanic Garden has been commissioned. Much of the Park infrastructure, such as irrigation, sewerage, parking, roads and paths, is old and in need of upgrading. The first stage of the project includes the formulation of a framework to upgrade facilities in the Park. A strong Steering Committee includes two members of the Friends. The draft plan will be open to public comment, and input from groups such as the Friends will be particularly welcomed.

The 1994 Western Australian Wildflower Festival took place from 30 September to 4 October. This annual Festival is Australia's largest and most varied wildflower display, and is in two parts, an outdoor landscaped display of growing plants and an indoor display in a marquee. A particular genus is featured at each Festival, this year's being *Erimophila*, which includes the Emu Bush, Native Fuchsia and Poverty Bush.

Since the time of settlement many introduced plants have escaped into the Kings Park bushland. A Bushland Management Plan has been approved and volunteers among the Friends have been helping to remove 'feral' plants. It will perhaps surprise those living in the eastern States to know that these include such species as the Cootamundra Wattle and the Geraldton Wax.

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc.

Incorporated under the *Associations Incorporation Act* 1981 of Victoria No. A0026805Z

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