



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

SOON MANY OF US will be gathering at the Mueller Hall at the National Herbarium of Victoria for the 1997 Conference of the Association, to be held on 19 and 20 April. It promises to be a most interesting Conference, and I am sure we will all return home greatly inspired and informed, and even more enthusiastic about our prized Botanic Gardens.

I am happy to say that several people from New South Wales and Queensland will join representatives of our Members; already as we go to press the registrations suggest that we will have a record attendance.

The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne have built the Conference round the theme *Conservation, Collections and Community*. We are all interested in *Conservation*, not only of our own Gardens, but in the general subject; many of us have special *Collections* in our Gardens or would like to establish one; and we should all be conscious of the fact that our Gardens belong to the *Community* in which we live, and we need to help our communities understand the value of these important assets. I believe that this Conference will greatly help us to focus on these related themes.

I look forward to greeting many of you on 19 April.

John Harper

Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

THIS YEAR WARRNAMBOOL celebrates its 150th anniversary and on 17 February, Proclamation Day, we had a day-long series of functions and celebrations, attended by the Hon. Richard McGarvie, Governor of Victoria,

and Mrs Lesley McGarvie. The day started well with the planting of a tree in the Botanic Gardens by Mrs McGarvie. We had chosen a *Eucalyptus pryoriana* (Gippsland manna gum) to commemorate the occasion because two existing manna gums, which predate the Gardens, stand nearby. They are well over 120 years old.

After the tree-planting ceremony Mr McGarvie remarked on the unique establishment of botanic gardens throughout Victoria, all of which he had visited in his term of office. He emphasised the importance to future generations of their being maintained, and he praised the work of Friends across the State in continuing our heritage.

To mark the 150th year the Friends hope to start on the restoration of the band rotunda, built in 1913. We are already serving refreshments during our 'Music in the Gardens' program from the downstairs section, having had the amenities improved there. All proceeds go towards the restoration fund.

We are also repainting the fernery, which dates from the early 1900s. It was rebuilt in 1985 to the original design. We will again be painting it in a heritage green.

On 16 March, as part of our summer 'Music in the Gardens' program, we staged a 150th Celebrations Concert, featuring local bands, choirs and soloists. It was a glorious sunny day and was much enjoyed by the people of Warrnambool. We raised money not only from the refreshments but also by raffling a beautiful embroidery, done by Jean Fitzpatrick, one of the Friends. It depicted the band rotunda and nearby flower beds.

Marigold Curtis

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens

HAMILTON FRIENDS has celebrated its tenth year and can look back with some pride on its achievements. However, there are many projects to be completed, and others to be implemented. The Cottage refurbishment is still being carried, but the Friends expect to take possession of the building within weeks!

During the summer and autumn months we have organised 'Pleasant Sunday Afternoons', with music in the Gardens on a regular basis. The music has ranged from bands to country and western and jazz, and has been well supported by the local community.

In January the Australia Day ceremony was conducted in the Gardens. It proved to be a popular venue for the celebrations. Campbell McComas was the guest speaker.

In April the Friends will be involved in Hamilton Heritage Day, with special entertainment at the Art Gallery, at the Gardens and at Old Monivae homestead.

The Gardens are looking very attractive, and we are looking forward to the future with great interest.

Beris Smith

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens

THE MEMORIAL STATUE to Sir Edward Dunlop was duly unveiled by the Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, on 10 November in our Gardens before an enormous crowd of people. This has been most effective in putting both Benalla and our Gardens 'on the map', as it has attracted a constant flow of visitors and sightseers ever since. The statue is close to the Gardens' frontage and near the main entrance. It is a moving memorial to one of Australia's most famous sons and well worth making an effort to see if one is near Benalla.

This event coincided with the annual Benalla Rose Festival Market Day, when the Friends also have a stall for raising funds.

Our bus trip to visit both public and private gardens in the Gisborne/Castlemaine area on 22/24 November 1996 was thoroughly enjoyable in perfect weather conditions. We saw a great diversity of gardens and were well looked after at Castlemaine Botanic Gardens by Annie O'Shannessy of the Castlemaine Friends, and at Gisborne by Melanie Kinsey from the Gisborne Friends. The latter Botanic Garden, in its for-

mative stage, is of special interest because of its New Zealand association, and the former has strong goldfields connections.

It is worth mentioning again that the members of our small, but dedicated, band of rose pruners are still active once a week, pruning roses in our Gardens so as to help our Council in the maintenance of the Gardens.

Brian Chandler

Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens

WE MUST TELL YOU that we have changed our name from Sunraysia Oasis Botanical Gardens. With a focus on xerophytic Australian native and exotic plants in a semi-arid environment — a rare siting of botanic gardens — our Gardens should grow in international significance during the coming years. As these Gardens are a community project the original name has a special relevance, but the Board of Management realised the need to look to the future and so the Sunraysia Oasis Botanical Gardens has become known as the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens.

Of course the name change has little influence on the Friends' day-to-day activities and our wonderful 'dead-headers' tend the rose garden every Wednesday morning, so assisting the staff in the continuing maintenance or our earliest and very popular attraction.

Our 400-metre Mallee Nature Walk is being enhanced by plantings of indigenous species, and our Sturt's Desert Pea project, involving the Friends in propagating and planting *Clianthus formosus* annually, has seen greater success since the seedlings have been growing under irrigation. *Allocasuarina* and *Casuarina* specimens have grown very greatly during recent months, and we look forward to a mature oak forest. Nearby, the Australian salt-tolerant area is well established and is creating great interest in our region, where salinity problems are common.

Recent planting in the southern sector of the Gardens has been in the area of Australian irrigated species, and earlier plantings in the beds of European, American, African and Asian origins are showing enormous progress in recent months, with many now in bloom. Mulching, weeding and checking of drippers occupy much time for staff, with approximately 25 ha now developed.

1998 is our year to host the annual Conference and a small committee is busy making plans. A visit to Mildura for 2 and 3 May 1998 should be a memorable experience, and we look forward to welcoming many Friends.

Jenny Eagle

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

THE GROWERS, THE GUIDES and the Tea House volunteers have had a very busy and lucrative summer, courtesy of the controller of the weather and a gradual response to our continuing publicity.

In November the Friends secured a visit to the Gardens by the Minister for Conservation and Lands, Mrs Marie Tehan. Our purpose was to familiarise her with the Master Plan for the Gardens and to gain financial support from the Government for the project. We are still hopeful.

In January we received approval for our Gift Fund, and in February we were delighted to receive a grant of \$10,000 from the Department of Conservation and Lands for restoration of the 1905 Cabmen's Shelter, which has been deteriorating for nine years. In March we were honoured to receive a visit from the Hon. Richard McGarvie, Governor of Victoria, and Mrs McGarvie. It has been a very busy few months.

Annie McGeachy

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

COMMUNITY AND GARDENS working bees have occupied the Cranbourne Friends during the first few months of 1997.

We have had several 'inside' working bees to lay rabbit-proof netting along the southern boundary fence of the Gardens. Purchased with a grant from Melbourne Parks and Water, the 100-metre rolls of galvanised netting must be clipped to the chain-mesh fence, folded at a right angle and then covered with earth. So far we have managed to lay 700 metres, with Friends volunteers and the much-appreciated help of the Devon Meadows Venturer Scout Unit. This is less than half of the total 3 km to be laid, and though it is hard on the back it is very worthwhile if it protects our native flora and fauna from the local vermin.

Outside the Garden boundaries, staff and Friends, led by staff member David Stewart, organised the local 'Clean Up Australia' activities. Fourteen volunteers met at the Gardens' front gate and filled 27 bags of rubbish. This included nine bags of beer bottles from a 40-metre stretch of road reserve outside the Gardens' northern boundary! Sounds like the remains of a fairly serious party, or perhaps a new archaeological site for future social scientists to examine.

The Friends' Committee has been busy with arrangements for our inaugural dinner, to be held on 3 May, when Graham Pizzey will talk to us and show us some of his brilliant photographs. A notice for this dinner is enclosed.

Don Jewell

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens

THE FRIENDS OF THE RTBG, like other Friends, are a group of people who like to give practical support where we can to the Board of Trustees and Management of the Gardens, and at the same time follow our own interests and demonstrate our support and affection for the Gardens.

We have five volunteer groups, Propagation, Guides, Shop, Volunteer Bus Drivers (for the Hortotherapy Centre) and our most-recently formed group, the Herbarium Group. This year we hope to form a Museum/History Group, as our Gardens lay claim to being the second oldest in Australia, having been founded in 1818. Our history encompasses a range of topics from the early convict days, connections with the scientific research and magnetic observations of the 1840s and early pioneering work in acclimatisation, plant collection and protection, and research. All our activities are severely hampered by lack of space, and we are optimistically hoping that the promised Visitors Centre for the Gardens will one day become a reality.

A recent re-organisation of office accommodation resulted in the Friends being able to enlarge our Shop and move to the Gatehouse, near the main gate. This has improved our ability to raise funds.

At present our Gardens are threatened by the spread of the *Armillaria* root-rot disease, which may destroy many of our magnificent trees, and is endangering our conifer collection. Because our Gardens are very small the current

treatment for such outbreaks cannot be applied and a public campaign has raised over \$200,000 to enable research into ways and means of control.

It is interesting to receive *Campsis* and to find out what other Friends of Botanic Gardens are doing, especially as it gives us a broader outlook on what can be achieved.

Jenny Parrott

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne

THE MELBOURNE FRIENDS have put considerable thought into planning the seventh annual conference of the Association on 19 and 20 April, and we look forward to welcoming many visitors to this event.

The Observatory Gate project is in limbo, awaiting further funding, so we have not yet had to vacate our office in the Astronomer's Residence. However, the Growing Friends' nursery moved to a new site in the Gardens' work area after the autumn plant sale on 22 and 23 March. Fortunately, most of the stock went to new homes, in exchange for which the gross proceeds of the sale amounted to more than \$25,000.

Our record hot and dry summer, a trial for home gardeners, proved a boon for the children's holiday programs and for the promoters of films, music and theatre in the Gardens.

Gardens' staff have been closely monitoring the operation of the automatic irrigation system to keep it within budget during summer; water has been 'applied astutely' with good effect. The weather took its toll, however, on a venerable Moreton Bay fig near Dog Flat, which collapsed from heat stress. There was also an outbreak of toxic blue-green algae on the Ornamental Lake in February.

Sandra Beckwith, landscape planner for the South Yarra gardens, has completed the first draft of the Master Plan. Setting out objects for the next 30 years, it will be presented for public comment in May.

The Friends met a request from the Gardens to finance the attendance of three horticultural staff at the first meeting of botanic gardens curators and managers in Alice Springs in March, and also for the purchase of a Global Positioning System. This equipment improves the ability to map and record the positions of plants

and landscape features for the RBG computerised plant database.

Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, long-time friend and benefactor of both the South Yarra and Cranbourne Gardens was honoured as the Gardens' first Patron in December. Recently she and her family made a generous donation towards the purchase of additional land for the RBG Cranbourne.

Cranbourne will also benefit from the establishment of the Research Centre for Urban Ecology, funded by the Baker Foundation. The Centre will study how we can conserve remnants of bushland and other valuable habitat as they become increasingly threatened by suburban development.

Nature at its most exotic may be observed by travellers to Costa Rica in August, on a trip arranged for the Friends by Destination Management. Costa Rica is said to have more of its land mass protected by national parks and conservation areas than any other country in the world. Please phone our office (03 9650 6398) if you would like an information brochure.

What's new? An intake of voluntary guides for training, initiated by new Volunteers' Co-ordinator Sophie Garrett; newcomers to the Friends' Council: John Hawker, David Plant, Janet Thomson and Cathy Trinca; and a new volume of *Botanic Magazine* in preparation.

Heather Ironmonger

Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, Daylesford

BETWEEN 1859 and 1862 the Council set aside land fronting Central Springs Road for the development of a public garden. Significant events in what became the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, as set out in a brochure prepared by the Friends of the Gardens, were these:

1863: Two oak trees were planted to commemorate the wedding of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

1860s and 1870s: Baron von Mueller provided many young trees from the Melbourne Gardens to begin Daylesford's significant collection of conifers.

1884: Sangster and Taylor, eminent landscape designers, were employed to design and lay out the Gardens. The fernery is the only legacy of their plans.

1888: A circular water storage basin was built, to store 1,000,000 gallons (4.55 megalitres) of water for town use.

Maurice Sheagold - Pres.

1898: Permission was granted to the Wombat Hill Tunnel Company to mine under the Gardens for gold.

1901: Two 68-pounder coastal artillery guns were donated by the Government Order Store in Melbourne. Only one remains today.

1938: The observation tower was erected as a pioneer memorial. It was opened by Lord Huntingfield, the then Governor of Victoria.

Begonias were recorded as being in the Gardens in 1894. They are still displayed annually, from February to April, in the Alf Headland Conservatory.

The Opening of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens

The latest addition to Victoria's impressive list of over 30 regional botanic gardens was opened in Gisborne on 9 November 1996 by Dr Philip Moors, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. These Gardens are unique in Victoria and, indeed, in all of Australia, as most of the 4-hectare site is to be devoted to New Zealand flora. What plant material is not from New Zealand will be from Australia, South Africa and South America in order to illustrate the ancient Gondwanan links between these four countries.

The New Zealand theme was chosen partly because of the sister-city relationship Gisborne has with Gisborne, New Zealand, which has prospered since the late 1970s. This was reflected by the large contingent of Kiwis from Gisborne who came to be part of the opening and also to witness the dedication of 'Tanemahuta', a 4-metre-high carving of the 'Lord of the Forest' by Derek Lardelli, of Gisborne, N.Z. Tanemahuta was jointly provided by the Gisborne, N.Z., District Council and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, with the Friends of Gisborne Botanic Gardens providing for the cost of freight across the Tasman.

The day of the opening started well before first light, with the blessing of Tanemahuta attended by the tangata whenua (the official New Zealand delegation), many local people and a busload of Maoris from the Maori community in Melbourne. Invited guests were treated to a Hangi (underground barbecue) for lunch and then the opening took place at 2 p.m. More than 400 people watched as Dr Moors officially opened the Gardens, followed by Mr Yan Flint, the New Zealand Consul-General, who planted a *Podocarpus totara* (Totara) in honour of the occasion. Afternoon tea was then served while a

Maori cultural group entertained us all with singing and dancing.

The Gardens development began in 1990 with stock being propagated in the Council's nursery because of the poor representation of New Zealand flora in the nursery trade. Cutting material has come from several botanic gardens, old 'hill station' gardens on Mount Macedon and a donation of plants from Gisborne, N.Z., that came through quarantine. Seed has been donated from several botanic gardens in New Zealand, including Wellington, Dunedin and Timaru, and this has been an invaluable contribution. The Friends of Gisborne Botanic Gardens (formed in 1995) have taken over the propagation of plants for the Gardens and are also involved with planting in the Gardens and their future management. A recent donation from Western Water has meant that the installation of stage 1 of the irrigation system for the Gardens can begin, but further sponsorship for future projects is being sought.

Further information about the Gardens can be obtained by writing to the Friends of Gisborne Botanic Gardens Inc. at P.O. Box 564, Gisborne, Vic. 3437.

-Melanie Kinsey-

P.O. 445
Buderim Q
4556.

Do you need a Tax-deductible Fund?

By Annie McGeachy, Secretary of the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

After a false start, some time in the wilderness and a protracted delay, the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Gift Fund for the receipt of tax-deductible donations is now a fact. I hope the following information will benefit any others considering the task of setting up such a fund.

Our application for tax deductibility for donations was successful under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936*, using sub-section 78(5) - Ruling IT 2194 (September 1995) Gifts/Ancillary funds. We also obtained tax exemption for our income under sub-section 23 (j)(ii) as a public charitable trust. We also applied for Sales Tax exemption, as mentioned later.

An incorporated Friends has the capacity to 'operate' a Public Fund via its Rules, so long as the Purposes and Rules comply with the appropriate tax Act and the public fund requirements. In this instance the incorporated body is the Trustee and there is no requirement to appoint individual trustees, although the option to do

so remains. Separate books and accounts must be maintained for the Friends and the Fund. Membership fees/subscriptions are not tax-deductible.

The current incorporated association Rules can easily be modified to meet Tax Office requirements and operational issues, and can be used in association with a shorter separate Trust/Fund Deed.

The Purposes need to deal with conservation, education, research, benefit to the community, etc. The Rules for 'dissolution' and the 'not for profit' condition are detailed in the Tax Office brochure *Information for Non-profit & Income Tax Exempt Organisations*. The Trust/Fund Deed should include clauses for the application and investment of funds, the duties of the trustee and the winding up of the fund, or as otherwise or additionally advised by your solicitor.

The Rules have to be submitted to the Office of Fair Trading for approval; then the Trust/Fund Deed must be signed, registered and stamped before the complete submission can be sent to the Tax Office.

The submission should include:

- a brief history of the Friends
- the committee organisational/functional structure and general activities
- the Purposes and Rules
- a copy of the incorporation certificate
- two years' financial reports
- proposed control and use of funds.

We also considered applying for tax deductibility under other sub-sections of the Act.

- ss 78(4) Ruling IT 2020 Botanic Gardens/Museums. Donations to a botanic garden are tax-deductible if the garden is registered with the Tax Office, but a 'Friends Inc.' is not acceptable. We did not explore the possibility of a separate and loosely-linked Botanic Gardens Trust, with appointed trustees.
- ss 78(4), table 6, item 6.1.1 Environmental organisations, that is, registering the Friends as such. But the interpretation required the funds to be applied specifically to environment/conservation issues, which might suit some new gardens but would be very limiting for an established garden requiring capital works.

Sales Tax exemption was applied for on the following basis:

Exemption is granted to non-discriminatory public benevolent organisations that provide housing, clothing, food, etc. to (or meet the primary needs of) the socially disadvantaged.

The essence of our proposal was that the ethos and rôle of a botanic garden is essential to and a reflection of the health of a community, is non-discriminatory and available to (all) the socially disadvantaged at no cost. Therefore, we said, the benefits that flow from the Friends activities are essential to meeting the psychological, social and emotional needs or secondary needs ... etc. But it didn't work! We were refused without comment.

To ensure your ultimate success your cause will be greatly helped by an interested solicitor, patience is essential and it is a great advantage to cultivate a sympathetic submissions approval office in your regional Tax Office. He/she can examine your existing Rules and offer advice before you become confused.

BOOK REVIEW

A Vision Shared: The Maud Gibson Trust 1945—1995, The Maud Gibson Trust, South Yarra 1996. 66pp., illustrated

By Karen Twigg

Review by Don Jewell, Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne

Possession of a 'vision' is claimed by many, including the religious and politicians, to say nothing of assorted charlatans with only their own benefit in mind. To formulate and document a coherent vision of a set of desirable future outcomes, and to provide the funds and organisation so that the vision can be realised for the greater good of the community, is far less common.

That is the core of this interesting little book. It details the broad vision Miss Maud Gibson had for the development of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and the support of associated scientific and cultural activities in the fields of botany and horticulture.

The book details how the Trust has developed Maud Gibson's vision and the Trust's many achievements. A wide range of projects has been supported – research has been encouraged and financed, publications and botanical art have been supported, and land for a native botanical garden has been purchased at Cranbourne.

The Trust Deed (Appendix One) is the key to the Trust's actions. It could, perhaps, have been more usefully placed near the front of the book, as it is well worth study.

A *Vision Shared* records that, since its formation fifty years ago, the Trust committee has always had in mind the concept of a native garden. In 1945 Professor John Turner, an original Trust member, recommended 'the acquisition of land in the country where plants could be grown and seen to better advantage under natural conditions'. He was referring specifically to native plants.

Through a series of frustrating delays this vision took until 1970 to achieve, when Premier Sir Henry Bolte was persuaded to purchase the original piece of land at Cranbourne from the Commonwealth.

History is not everyone's cup of tea, but for anyone interested in the story of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne, as well as recent developments of the South Yarra Gardens, I recommend this well compiled and very readable account.

The text includes black and white illustrations and the covers show colour illustrations by Anita Barley, Betty Conabere and Celia Rosser, all of whom have benefited from the Trust's patronage. Copies may be obtained from the Gardens Shop at the RBG, Melbourne, price \$15.00.

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (Victoria) Inc.

President: John Harper

Vice-President: Yvonne Mills

Secretary: Lawrence Cohn

Treasurer: David Baumgartner

Immediate Past President: Max Pawsey

Committee: Eve Brunner, Joan Garner, Melanie Kinsey, Jayne Salmon

Members of the Association

Albury City Council

Central Goldfields Shire (Maryborough Botanic Gardens)

Corangamite Shire (Camperdown Botanic Gardens)

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc.

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens Inc.

Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Inc.

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Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens

Friends of Sunraysia Oasis Botanic Gardens

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc.

Macedon Ranges Shire (Kyneton Botanic Gardens)

Address: C/- National Herbarium of Victoria,
Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra, Vic. 3141

Telephone: 03 9848 7029, Fax: 03 9650 7723

