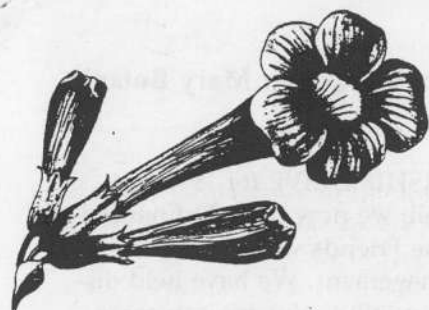


# Campsis



*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 1997 CONFERENCE of the Association, held in the Mueller Hall at the National Herbarium of Victoria on 19 and 20 April, was attended by ninety Friends and others from many parts of Victoria, and from New South Wales and Queensland. The Conference was opened by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, the Patron of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and the keynote address was given by Professor Carrick Chambers. The Conference theme, *Conservation, Collections and Community*, was the basis of most interesting and informative addresses by speakers well versed in their subjects. The proceedings of the Conference are to be published in a few weeks' time. We greatly appreciate the work of the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne in making all the arrangements, and the use of the Hall made available to us by the Director of the Gardens, Dr Philip Moors.

At the Annual General Meeting I was elected as President, so that John Harper became the Immediate Past President and Max Pawsey stepped down from that position. We are grateful for the leadership given to the Association by both Max and John in the last few years. No other changes were made in the membership of the Committee.

We are keenly looking forward to the 1998 Conference, to be held at Mildura next May.

Yvonne Mills

## Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens

THE FRIENDS' main goal for 1997 has been to spend more time in the Gardens with

working bees and propagation walks. Our Autumn propagation walk was so successful that we have decided to have our very own Vice-President Kevin Walsh speak about Propagation in the Gardens at our Annual General Meeting. That will be followed three days later by a Spring Propagation Walk to put everything into practice.

As we have been focusing our sights on the Gardens themselves our fundraising has been left to only two events this year. On 6 August we held a film night at the Theatre Royal with the movie *Paradise Road*. It was an excellent movie and it was a pity the event was not patronised rather better. We also had a beautiful 'Gardener's Delight Hamper', won by Helen McEwan who was greatly delighted, and though we did not make a lot of money on the night we were still grateful for all the workers who gave their time and effort to it.

This number of *Campsis* will reach you just as we are having our famous Champagne Breakfast and Tour of the Gardens on Cup Day. This is in support of the Gardens Festival and has become a very popular event. Make a note in your 1998 diary and come to join in the fun next year!

Danielle Johnson

## Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens

OUR PROGRESS during the Autumn planting has been severely set back by record frosts, which have killed a very large proportion of new plantings.

Since our last report we have established a bush chapel, with seating for 120. Already we have bookings for two weddings. Unfortunately, most of the plants surrounding the

chapel, and designed to give some privacy to any service within, have died! The chapel will double as a lecture theatre for school excursions, etc.

For 26 weeks—from March to the end of August—we have had a Green Corps group working at the Gardens. We provided good working conditions and the opportunity to develop practical skills under qualified supervision. Mildura and District Educational Council provided lectures in horticulture, chemical usage, machinery use and maintenance, and health and environmental safety. This all attracted certificates to add to the recipients' *curricula vitae*. As well, the ten volunteers supplied a considerable workforce for our continued development. We hope to repeat this very successful exercise next year. Work slowed in September and our activities are now directed towards the establishment of the first of two 1 km ornamental streams flowing through the property.

Plans have also been drawn up for the erection of a series of gazebos throughout the Gardens, one of which will be funded by the Friends.

Our other big effort at the moment is a well-planned drive for funds. It involves the cooperation of the press (*Sunraysia Daily*), television, the schools and the service clubs. The early results have been most encouraging.

With the busy Spring season upon us our activities are increasing. We cater for private functions, service club dinner meetings, open day meals and Devonshire Teas, and for bus tours and train rides by appointment.

Our spectacular rose garden of 1634 roses is groomed weekly by a dedicated group of Friends during the growing season, to keep it in top condition throughout the year. The Nature Trail, another of our responsibilities, is showing further maturity as we plant more specimens and label more plants.

The plans for next year's Conference in Mildura are well advanced. We are confident that a memorable weekend will result. We have enlisted high-quality speakers. There will be some unique experiences, so do come to Mildura, and not just for the two days 2 and 3 May!

Since our last report Dorothy Hodges has resigned as Secretary and I have assumed that responsibility.

**Margaret Hall**

## Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens

OUR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE for 1997 has gone very well; we now have 72 financial members. From the Friends we have set up a Committee of Management. We have held discussions on the possibility of using sewerage waste water in the Gardens, as it could be acquired at about one-third of the cost of normal water. Grampians Water is prepared to put the trunk line along the town's main drain, and the Northern Grampians Shire Council would be responsible for lateral connections for the areas concerned. The Council has also approached Powercor about placing the power lines around the Queen Mary Gardens underground, thereby eliminating the need for severe pruning.

We have a number of major priorities for the coming year:

- The installation of a sprinkler system covering the main shrub bed.
- The upgrading of paths throughout the Gardens, as recommended by the Kevin Walsh plan.
- The removal of asphalt from around the trunks of the street trees around the Gardens, so improving their chances of survival.
- The immediate planting of hedges, as per the Kevin Walsh plan.
- The replacement of the advanced Ginkgo tree, which was damaged by vandals, to ensure a worthy specimen in the Gardens.

All edging in the Gardens is to be repaired and made uniform when the sandstone is available. It is hoped that the Cuffley garden of the St Arnaud Historical Society museum can be included in the Queen Mary Gardens tender contract to be cared for by Shire garden staff. It has also been decided that reunions or other gatherings involving large numbers should not be held in the Gardens because of the fragility of the Gardens and past experiences of unintentional damage. A recommendation has been placed on our books that only first-quality trees and plants should be purchased for our Gardens.

**Michael Noonan**

## Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS the Friends have been very busy. The Winter Wonderland Festival was a great success, with

the Friends being hosts within the Conservatory and providing guided tours over the two days. Many Ballarat and district residents took the opportunity to learn more about our Gardens and horticulture.

In the 1997 Garden Lecture Series Anna Pavord will visit Ballarat on 29 October, and this promises to be a most successful day. The Friends are delighted to be involved with this lecture series.

The Growing Friends are a dedicated band of volunteers who meet each Tuesday to pot, trim and care for cuttings and plants from the Botanical Gardens and stock from members' gardens. These are sold to the public and to members each Tuesday afternoon and on the second Sunday each month. As a result of these successful sales we have contributed to the purchase of a tree-labelling machine for the Gardens. Members of the Friends have learned how to operate this machine. The Growing Friends now have their own glasshouse and extra space for storage of plant.

Guiding Friends have welcomed a new group of guides, who have just completed their training and are ready to conduct guiding tours. Guides conduct tours each month on the second Sunday and also participate in any special events in the Gardens.

We will have a bus tour of the Gardens on Tuesday 2 December to complete our wonderful year. We look forward to a new year and the participation by the Friends in many more projects and events.

**Carole Haines**

### **Friends of Wilson Botanic Park, Berwick**

**T**HE FRIENDS are presently extremely busy organising a 'Gardens Room' Festival to be held at the Park over the weekend of 29 and 30 November. Garden Room displays by landscapers and nurserymen will be the focus of the event, limited only by their imagination. There will also be music and theatrical performances on the lawns, several exciting activities for children and a variety of foods available around the Park. Support from local industry has been wonderful, so we look forward to a successful weekend. Hours are 1030 to 2100 on Saturday and 1030 to 1800 on Sunday.

Several of the Friends are investigating the avenues of an education program for the Park and contact has been made with all the local schools. The potential use of the Park as an

educational resource gives it another strong reason for existence in these times of cutbacks.

Our Friends attended the Association's Annual Conference held at the Melbourne Gardens and also the Guides Conference held in Brisbane. Both conferences were of great value to Friends and we congratulate those involved with their organisation, and recommend to others to gain the benefit of attending the next conference.

Recently the Friends took out a page on the Internet to promote our Park, so it will be interesting to see where this leads. As we have an entrance fee it is fairly easy to survey the visitors as they pay. The results are valuable, as we learn where they come from and how they learned of the Park's existence. This helps with future promotion.

Donations to the Park continue, with many nurseries donating plants. The latest support came from Erica McMinn, owner of Camellia Lodge Nursery and also a Friend of the Park. We also acknowledge the support of Greening Australia and the local schools for their participation in tree planting this year.

**Lex Nieboer**

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

**F**OR MANY MONTHS the vexed question of an east-west road link for Cranbourne has been of the utmost concern to the management and the Friends of the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens. Of several possible routes for such a link one that has been strongly put forward would require Ballarto Road, a section of which forms part of the northern boundary of the Gardens, to be extended and upgraded. If this option were chosen the road would cut through the Gardens and leave a small part of the area entirely separated from the rest. This is a most serious threat to the integrity of the Gardens.

An Environmental Effects Statement about the various proposals was released for public comment on 20 October. Submissions may be made up to 22 December. The Royal Botanic Gardens Board is totally opposed to the suggestion that the road should be put through the Gardens and has prepared appropriate material stating its objections. The Friends would greatly value the support of members of other Friends organisations in this most serious matter. Any one who would be willing to make a submission



may obtain suitable background material by writing to the Friends' Publicity Officer, Don Jewell, at P.O.Box 434, Cranbourne, 3977 or telephoning him at 03 5998 7734.

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

**W**ORK WILL BEGIN IN NOVEMBER on the development of the Old Melbourne Observatory site; an allocation of \$2 million from the Victorian Government through the Community Support Fund in June put the financial target within reach and enabled tenders to be called. The Friends now have a temporary office in the Great Melbourne Telescope Building and look forward to moving into our intended future home, Observatory Lodge, by mid-1988.

The Growing Friends, who have set up a new nursery, put their new sale location within the Gardens to the test in mid-October. The takings of almost \$20,000 represented a good result; there was less stock than usual because the move occupied much time and effort, the new nursery enjoys less open sun and potted Rosaceae plants had to be excluded from the sale.

This expulsion followed the mysterious discovery of the fireblight bacterium on two cotoneasters in the Gardens in April, which resulted in the removal of 500 potentially susceptible plants in October. Although there has been no further evidence of the disease this precautionary action has been taken to protect Victoria's nursery and orchard industries. It's an ill wind—the plants removed were not of particular importance, and all those empty spots offer creative opportunities for Gardens planners. Viburnums, natives and South American species are being planted.

The Master Plan will be presented for Board approval in December, following consideration of the 29 public submissions received after the draft was issued in May. Andrew Laidlaw, newly-appointed Landscape Planner at the Gardens, will outline features of the Plan to Friends at our annual meeting on 17 November.

Some changes to the composition of the Board have taken place in recent months. Mr David Adam succeeded inaugural Chairman Mr William Irvine, and Mr John Gough, Dr Anne Astin and Dr Brian McNamee have joined the Board. The Friends have arranged a function at Gardens House on 2 December to enable the Board and our members to meet.

Volume 7 of the Friends' *Botanic Magazine* includes a round-up of the 150th anniversary celebrations; the cover illustration, much admired, is one of Anne Marie Graham's series of paintings of the Gardens that will tour regional galleries next year. Council member David Plant has updated a list of birds in the Gardens, and the Friends have produced this as a leaflet for visitors. If you're serious about plants you could not hope for a better Christmas present than a copy of *Horticultural Flora of South-eastern Australia* volume 2, copiously illustrated with colour photographs and line drawings. It's the latest publication by the National Herbarium's Dr Roger Spencer, and covers many popular flowering plants and important tree groups. The RBG's 1996-97 annual report and an inexpensive full-colour souvenir booklet about the Gardens have also become available recently.

Signage interpreting the Australian Rainforest Walk won for the Gardens the 1997 National Interpretation Australia Award for excellence.

Perennial favourite and plantsman extraordinaire Stephen Ryan will enliven our Christmas dinner on 11 December with tales of collecting rare plants; we would love to welcome some Association members at this function. We also remind you that our newly-repainted Friends' Shop by the Ornamental Lake is brimming with special Christmas gifts, and that plans are in place for a trip to the South Island of New Zealand from 27 March to 10 April.

Commercial entertainment planned for the Gardens during the summer includes *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Wind in the Willows* and *Moonlight Cinema*.

### **Heather Ironmonger**

### **Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens**

**D**URING THE WINTER MONTHS we had several discussions with the Shire in regard to the state of the Gardens. Within the constraints of budgets and maintenance contracts we hope we have brought a greater awareness of our grand asset, and a course of action for the preservation and enhancement of the Gardens.

On 20 August we held our Annual General Meeting, which was well attended; we had the Mayor of Delatite Shire, Bill Hill, as the guest speaker. The audience was

pleased with the interest in, and vision for, the Gardens that Mr Hill showed.

This year the Benalla Rose Show is being organised by the Friends in conjunction with the Benalla Garden Club—lots of work for the Friends for that day! The Benalla 'Rose Festival' will be held from 1 to 30 November, with many events to take place in the Gardens. The Friends will be involved in a stall on market day.

After last year's successful Benalla Garden Expo the Friends are again joining with Benalla Rotary to produce the 1998 Garden Expo, to be held on Sunday 22 April, Easter Day.

#### Miles Oldmeadow

#### Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens

THE MASTER PLAN for the Botanic Gardens and Eastern Park adopted by the Council in November 1995 recommended conservation of the historic Japanese bronze cranes. This is in process of being carried out and will be paid for by the Friends. Work on restoration of the Cabmen's Shelter began during the second week of October. The Friends obtained a grant of \$10,000 from Parks Victoria earlier in the year and are trying to obtain further financial assistance from transport companies in the region.

We are delighted to report that the Geelong Heritage Group has replanted the extensive rose area in the Gardens to tell the story of the development of the rose. Soil was replaced in the beds and more than 200 new roses were planted in readiness for the National Heritage Rose Conference in Geelong in 1999.

September was an extremely busy month in the Gardens; the Voluntary Guides escorted a record number of visitors around the Gardens. Visitor numbers were boosted with promotion by V/Line of a rail trip to Geelong twice a week, with lunch at Eastcott Nursery at Ceres, followed by a guided walk and afternoon tea in the Gardens. The Friends' Teahouse has enjoyed increased patronage and the Growing Friends continue to be successful with Wednesday morning plant sales; they now offer plants for sale on the fourth Sunday of the month.

Eighteen members of the Friends will visit the Western District on 12 and 13 November and look forward to meeting Friends of the

Hamilton Botanic Gardens on their home ground.

Life is very busy for those involved with the Friends; we are always trying to encourage more volunteers to participate in our activities.

Jayne Salmon

#### Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, Daylesford

THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES have been divided between developing 'hands on' fund-raising activities, gaining support for a master plan for the Gardens, and opposing public works and commercial projects that would degrade the aesthetic and heritage features of the Gardens.

On the positive side the Growing Friends formed an active group who have been busy preparing for spring and summer sales. We have had good co-operation from Council and garden staff who made a potting shed and shade area available to us. We also had a well-supported Guest Speaker Series, covering a wide range of garden topics. No admission is charged and supper is free but the Committee still covered expenses by raising funds through raffles and plant sales on the nights.

Earlier in the year Optus Communications began surveying a number of hilltop sites around Daylesford as possible locations for a mobile telephone tower and repeater station antennae. With the top of Wombat Hill, the centre of the Botanic Gardens, being considered as a possible site we sought the support of the Association of Friends in our opposition to this. The Association's prompt response by letters to federal and state ministers was much appreciated. Optus has not gone further at this stage, but we are monitoring the situation closely.

More recently Central Highland Water had decided to cover the local water supply basins, again in the centre of the Gardens, with color-bond sheds. These would be like warehouses, given the size of the basins. Needless to say, we are opposing this decision and seeking other solutions with less visual impact.

The problems we are dealing with highlight the need for a master plan for the Gardens area. This would provide agreed strategic development, restoration and, importantly, greater protection for these Gardens which, over the years, have been subject to periods of neglect. Our thrust for the coming year will be towards the

development and adoption of a master plan for the Gardens.

### David Smith

#### Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens

**N**OW THAT WE HAVE possession of the Cottage within the perimeter of the Gardens the Friends are busily working towards fulfilling their aims regarding propagation, historic documentation and guiding.

The Growing Plants group has started propagating cuttings from the abutilon collection and other unusual plants. Work on a pictorial-word display of the development of the Gardens is now in the hands of the Art Gallery staff, and when completed will be set up in the Cottage. The Guiding Group is in the process of gathering information from various sources for the purpose of setting up a guiding service. A small group is working to upgrade the signage within the Gardens, principally the naming of plants.

The Friends were pleased to welcome the Hamilton Botanical Artists Group, an independent body, who paint in the Cottage one day each month. We look forward to the time when they stage an exhibition of their work.

With the coming of spring bringing longer days the Friends arranged a picnic day at Dunkeld on 26 October, first visiting their newly-established arboretum and then going on to Mr and Mrs Bill Funks' property *Mereweather*. Mr Funk is a noted expert on the growing of exotic trees and has a large collection from many parts of the world.

### Beris Smith

#### Friends of Warrnambool Botanic Gardens

**W**E HAD OUR Annual General Meeting in July and were delighted to have Michael Taylor, National Heritage Consultant, talk about parks and gardens he saw in Europe, particularly around Paris. He mentioned statues in gardens and the need to preserve them against vandals and pollution. He also spoke about parks in Paris and their careful design so that the community puts them to best use, and other matters of particular concern to us, such as the design and placement of garden seating.

A successful film luncheon was held in the winter to raise money for future projects in the Gardens, such as further improvements to the band rotunda. Our appeal for restoration of the rotunda continues. We have been fortunate to receive a substantial donation from the family of the late Sir Fletcher Jones and Rena Jones. Part of our long-term aim is to reinstate the outside staircase with its unique speaker's platform. At present an inside concrete staircase is used and this greatly restricts the room available for band performances. Another project for the spring is the replanting and painting of the fernery.

Our annual luncheon was held in mid-October, when Suzanne Price of *Trewhella House*, Daylesford, spoke to us on bulbs for all seasons.

The Friends are honoured to be invited by the Association to host the 1999 Annual Conference, and the Committee has accepted this invitation with pleasure.

### Marigold Curtis



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

*President:* Yvonne Mills  
*Secretary:* Lawrence Cohn  
*Treasurer:* David Baumgartner  
*Immediate Past President:* John Harper  
*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 the Australian Inland Botanic  
Gardens  
Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc.  
Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens Inc.  
Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens  
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Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens  
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Friends of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens Inc.  
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Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens,  
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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  
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