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NEWSLETTER

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

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November 2006

FROM THE SECRETARY

At last the two projects undertaken by the Association Committee of Management over 12 months ago have been completed.

The amended Purposes & Rules were approved by the Registrar, Consumer Affairs on October 4th 2006. Thankyou to members for your comment and for returning the proxy forms in time ensuring a greater than 75% approval vote.

The purposes of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Incorporated ('the Association') are:

- to encourage and support the growth of societies or associations interested in the conservation, development, well being and public appreciation of Botanic Gardens.
- to represent the interests of Friends of Botanic Gardens throughout Australia.

To support these purposes the association will endeavour to:

- a. Promote membership of the Association.
- b. Facilitate communication, advocacy, information exchange and sharing of experience.
- c. Maintain a website for the benefit of members and other community groups.
- d. Publish and disseminate among members and the community newsletters or other publications relating to the activities of the Association.
- e. Identify potential funding opportunities for members.
- f. Co-ordinate national conferences or arrange seminars, forums or any other events that may be desirable for the promotion of the purposes.
- g. Encourage members' involvement in the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) regional events and other related seminars and conferences.
- h. Do such other things as are conducive to or incidental to the attainment of the objects set out above.

The amended Association Rules are now available on the Association website.

The more difficult task was the preparation of an Information Kit for members, developed partly in response to the questionnaires you received some months ago. The kit is a working document in loose leaf ring folder to allow for information updates and inclusions. While the information might appear more useful to emerging Friends groups there are still ideas that might brighten the eye of the more experienced, including items on Grants and Public Funds.

Following a great deal of work and effort Janet Thomson made a brief presentation about the Information Kit at the Association Conference, supplying 20

delegates with a copy. Other members will receive a Kit by post. Production costs have been kept to a minimum avoiding any charge to members.

Other news:

We welcome the first Friends from Western Australia with the membership of the Friends of Kings Park, Perth and look forward to some interesting articles from this long established group. Brisbane is now the only capital city Botanic Gardens yet to join the Association. Among the seventeen member gardens represented at the Cranbourne conference were some new faces; Friends of King's Park and Friends of Gold Coast Botanic Gardens and potential Association members from Friends of Wollongong, Maroochy Bushland and Sale Botanic Gardens. A very pleasing result.

Membership of the Association stands at 39. Numbers by state are: ACT 1, NSW 5, N.T 1, Q. 2, Vic 25, SA.2, Tas.2 and WA 1. From the membership figures received this represents a total number of Friends is in excess of 4500 in regional area Botanic Gardens and a further 10,300 in the major cities, with Sydney the largest at 4800, Adelaide and Melbourne very similar and Perth 900. Just imagine-if half of the members were *under* 60 – and all active volunteers.

As summer approaches we all look forward to a very difficult 5 - 6months that will no doubt require tremendous volunteer effort if the valued plantings in our Botanic Gardens are to survive the extreme weather conditions. Many of our all ready drought stricken regional area Botanic Gardens will find it extremely difficult.

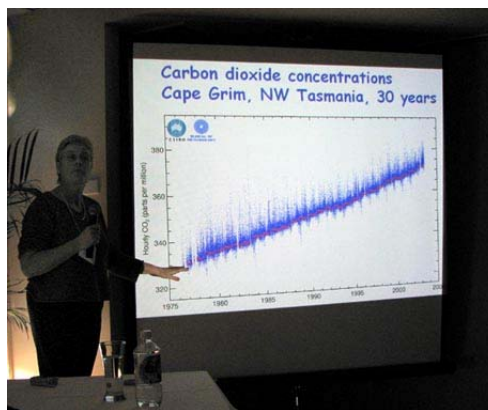
Finally, a note in your diary for autumn 2008, the Association Conference will be hosted by Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens.

Annie McGeachy.

PRESIDENTS REPORT AFBG CONFERENCE CRANBOURNE 2006

One would expect Friends of Botanic Gardens to be friendly. This was the case when 90 wonderful people attended the AFBG Conference over 15th, 16th and 17th September 2006 at the Amstel Golf Club, Cranbourne, Victoria. The theme was Evolution, Environment, Ecology and Botanic Gardens. Dr Phillips Moors, Director RBG Melbourne made the opening address and welcomed the delegates.

The keynote speaker Professor Rachel Webster, School of Physics, University of Melbourne, delivered, in plain English, a riveting graphic report on the state of the World Environment, leaving no one in doubt about the need to change our relationship with the planet. To be responsible in our lifestyle and for the footprint we make, to be informed and to make sure our political leaders are informed and perform. There are no simplistic answers. One of Rachel's biting comments was, "Why do we consider our present weather as being part of a ten year drought? Can't we acknowledge that we are living through climate change?"



John Arnott, Director of the Geelong Botanic Gardens (GBG) gave an inspiring presentation entitled "Beyond the Garden Gate". Many examples were given of conservation, education and information activities being conducted over the catchment area for the GBG. A recent initiative being an outreach program targeting the residents in the large public housing areas who are very poorly represented in the GBG visitor and education statistics.

As expected, the new Australian Garden within the RBG Cranbourne, featured in the lectures. Firstly with the leading Landscape Architect, Kevin Taylor, revealing much about the philosophy, research, the inspiration and remarkable team that had taken landscape design to an art form, demonstrating the individual features and behavioural relationships of the Australian landscape, soil, water, heat, drought and geographic features. Kevin walked us through the staggering landscape design and explained several of the dramatic features of the garden.

Then Chris Russell, Director of RBG Cranbourne, described the process of taking the project "From Concept to Reality" with the challenges, discoveries, set backs, disappointments surprises and successes and the unrelenting commitment of all staff to this amazing project

These lectures were great preparation for the delegates before boarding coaches to the RBG Cranbourne to see how a sand quarry looks after it has been transformed into an Australian Garden. Tour guides led small groups at a leisurely pace through this startling new landscape which displays the nature of Australia.

The Conference Dinner, also held at the Amstel Golf Club was attended by the Baron Ferdinand von Mueller KCMG, inaugural Director of RBG Melbourne. Although dead for 110 years special arrangements were made for him to be the after dinner speaker. Always an opinionated person, the Baron provided a lively assessment of the Australian

Garden and the comforts enjoyed by current staff. Sincere thanks to Andrzej Marczyński who not only researched the Baron and wrote the script but brought him to life in a wonderfully entertaining manner.

Sunday lectures introduced two speakers from the National Herbarium of Melbourne.

Dr Teresa Lebel, Senior Mycologist has a passion for her field of study which involves the neglected kingdom of Fungi. She explained some of the RBGM public programs on fungi and the work of the Australian Fungi Map (see website and CD) which records the siting and locations of many of Australia's 7,000 species of fungi, from information provided by observant volunteers and professionals. Teresa noted that our relationships with fungi generally involve "kickers, stompers or those that say wow!" The latter was clearly demonstrated in the fascinating presentation that also revealed such gems as- bandicoots are the best truffle hunters!

Neville Walsh, senior Conservation Botanist, then described the involvement of the Herbarium/Victorian Seed bank in the Millennium Seed Project overseen by Kew Gardens. The Millennium Seed Bank is an international collaborative plant conservation initiative that aims to maximize the genetics in a broad range of species and safeguard 24,000 plant species from around the globe against extinction. The seed bank plans to hold seed from 10% of the world's dry land flora by 2010. The Victorian seed bank supplies Kew with 2000 seeds a year in each of 450 species over 4--5 years to 2010, but taking not more than 10% of a year's seed, subject to plant availability. Seed is stored initially at 10-15% relative humidity for a month then gradually reduced to minimise moisture content. When stored at -20C seed is viable for at least 100years.

Finally Dr Wendy van Dok, Author, *The Water Efficient Garden*, inspired us with a discourse on 'The Sustainable Garden' demonstrating that we will need to adapt our gardens to climate change to still have wonderful plants to enjoy. She expressed concerns about the continual mushrooming of housing estates that ignore the basics of environmental planning or any reference to sustainable gardening.

With the lectures over, delegates from Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens, NSW, invited everyone to the next AFBG conference which they will host in the autumn of 2008.

Then to Cruden Farm the home of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, Patron of the RBG Melbourne and a member of FRBG Cranbourne. What a great privilege it was to have Dame Elisabeth personally lead the tour of her extensive garden. Driving her electric vehicle Dame Elisabeth stopped at salient points to explain the evolution of her garden often to reflect that she had planted a particular tree at least 50 years ago. At 97 years of age Dame Elisabeth has lost none of her passion for her wonderful garden. We were also joined by Michael Morrison who promptly corrects anyone who refers to him as the head gardener. "No, Dame Elisabeth is the Head gardener". For many that was the conclusion of a great time together, renewing old friendships, making new friends and networking with people who share common interests. Others stayed for a post-conference tour to the RBG Melbourne and the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

All participants left the conference challenged, inspired and with plenty to think about for the future of our gardens- and the planet.

FRIENDS OF ALBURY BOTANIC GARDENS

Murray Region New South Wales.

Our Friends had expected to be a little more excited with this report for Campsis 27, but while excitement is on the wane enthusiasm is still high in regard to our new offices. When it comes to communicating via e-mail, connection is almost immediate, but being connected to the City I.T system has been a major frustration. Our newly renovated office is complete, but for the I.T. connections we could be up and running. Hopefully patience will prevail and we will be on site by December 11th. One year after winning Council approval to move in.

Our photographic competition, "Garden Graphics," held over the past 12 months finished at the end of September with what can only be described as a disappointing result. Quality was good but quantity sadly lacking. Our conclusion is that much more enthusiastic promotion is required should we ever attempt another competition.

Highlight of the year so far is undoubtedly the assimilation of the Childrens' Garden Working Group into a sub-committee of our Friends Team. This young and enthusiastic group of mothers are already seeking funding for the first stage planning consultations. After twelve months of raising community interest and input through forums and questionnaires a thirteen page design brief was produced. It is anticipated the document will be used by the Landscape Designers to develop concepts to include in Council's plans for a Childrens' Garden within the Gardens.

Another enthusiastic venture of the Friends is the management of the Browns Lagoon Community Gardens and the well equipped Harry's Hut and outdoor barbeque area previously managed by the Browns Lagoon Friends Group. The venture into leasing this area is proving to be a very good "earner" as a community club room and outdoor entertaining area, complete with rolling lawns rotundas, rose beds and wisteria covered pergolas, it is ideal for meetings, weddings and parties etc.

In conclusion, thank you to the Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. We had a rewarding weekend at the Association Conference and enjoyed our time with you immensely. Dame Elizabeth and Cruden Farm was a delightful conclusion to a great weekend. Well done!

Jeff Gates (President)

FRIENDS OF KYNETON BOTANIC GARDENS

Macedon Ranges Region, Victoria.

Our group has grown in membership and has held a very successful fund raising dinner recently. The meal and company were delightful and our guest speaker Stephen Ryan both amusing and enlightening.

The members have been most excited to learn of our successful application to Heritage Victoria "Creating Better Places" grants. We have received \$30,000 to restore the Gardeners' Cottage in the Gardens to a habitable condition. It is our aim to use this facility as a focus for our activities in the Gardens to encourage visitors, educational programs and involvement of the local community. Once the cottage is restored it will also add to the amenity of the Gardens rather than being its present detraction.

Over the past 2 weekends we have also conducted plant sales at local functions with very satisfactory results.

Now we need rain to sustain our beautiful and historic trees and all will be right with our world - for a while at least!!

FRIENDS OF GEELONG BOTANIC GARDENS

Corio Bay, Victoria

Highlights of our Winter/Spring program have included the Winter Lecture/Lunch held at a new venue “The Barwon Edge”. Alex Smart our Association President was our guest speaker and delivered a very enthusiastic talk about the new Australian Garden at RBG Cranbourne. Forty five of our Friends visited this exciting new Garden in early September.

Enid Mayfield, Geelong Botanic Gardens (GBG) Scientific Illustrator and Friend recently launched a beautiful book “Flora of the Otway Plain and Ranges”. Enid spoke to a large audience of Friends about her work and research for the book at our September meeting. Our Friends’ Event for Seniors Week was a walk, morning tea and talk by Enid followed by a visit to the Geelong Gallery where her watercolours are on display.

October is always a busy month for Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens (FGBG). We again promoted the GBG at the ABC Gardening Expo at the Caulfield Racecourse and the following weekend many of our Friends assisted with the Waterwise Expo held at the GBG. The Expo was attended by 6000 visitors. A highlight was the performances by the talented Theatre in a Wheelbarrow from Wollongong Botanic Gardens Schools Education, who deliver strong environmental messages. A successful community Arts Grant application enabled us to bring the players to Geelong.

FGBG are anxiously waiting a decision from the Heritage Council of Victoria as to whether Eastern Park (EP) and the GBG are added to the Victorian Heritage Register. The City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) treats EP and GBG as two separate entities and does not want registration for EP whereas we advocate they are totally interdependent and one should not be registered without the other. In 1851 200 acres was set aside for Botanic Gardens and this whole area is of significant cultural heritage. A decision will be made in mid November.

A new comprehensive study of Eastern Park and the Geelong Botanic Gardens is now being conducted by CoGG. It will reference the 1995 Conservation and Management Study and Master Plan and look at other proposals for EP. The Friends are represented on the control panel and will have input as stakeholders but it is a constant battle to keep open space in this day and age.

I am really delighted to report that we have just received news that our grant submission to Heritage Victoria for \$32,000 to restore the 1916 rotunda adjacent to the GBG in EP has been successful. Well done to Annie McGeachy for her skillful preparation of the submission.

Janet Thomson and Annie need heaps of praise for revitalizing the Association of Friends. They have updated the Rules and Purposes of the Association and put together a comprehensive Manual with information and guidelines for Friends groups, having first contacted members for their views. This has been a mammoth and challenging task and we thank them very much for their excellent work. The role of the Association is very important to us all.

Jayne Salmon (President)

FRIENDS OF TASMANIAN BOTANIC GARDENS

Hobart, Tasmania

Friends would like to share our experiences with you!!

We have 200 members at present. Members have opportunities to work in groups in tour guiding, propagation, work in the herbarium and visitor centre, assisting in our Friends' Cottage and sharing our Garden's wonderful history with the many visitors from local places, interstate and overseas.

We help the Garden's staff in many ways including assisting on the gates for our two annual festivals – the Midwinter Huskies Picnic and the October Tulip Festival. These events are so much fun for children and adults, with music, fine foods, stalls, activities and drama, all complementing the beautiful and colourful displays of tulips.



Foods in the gardens with Chris Schaffer

Our Conservatory is always an amazing picture with displays being changed every season. We have contributed \$25,000 to two special projects that the garden staff are developing. One is the Friends' Mixed Border consisting of many different types of flowers and rose bushes. Roses climbing over archways and up through metal towers should be a spectacular sight in the future. The other project is revamping and securing the collection of photos, maps and posters depicting the history of our Gardens so that the Cottage, our headquarters, can be available to the public every day.

We want the Gardens to be accessible to as many people as possible. We are having "Friends Day in the Gardens" to publicise our roles and to showcase the work we do, in particular the Herbarium and the Seed Bank Project, a joint project with Kew Gardens in London. Guided tours will be available to visitors.

Margot White & friends at biggest morning tea



We organise an annual calendar of events, which include meetings, guest speakers, short walks, day trips and visits to other places of botanical interest. Friends are very fortunate to have such wonderful, expertly cared for Gardens to share with people, their love of plants, flowers, botanical information and history.

In the Pinetum we have the largest collection of conifers in the Southern Hemisphere including our now un-caged Wollemi Pine. Tragedy struck a few weeks ago when one of our favourites – the Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) – had to be removed because it had become dangerous due to being struck by lightning.

You can find out more and see some photos on our website. www.rtbg.tas.gov.au and follow the links to Friends.

Phill Parsons MAIH (President)

FRIENDS OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

MELBOURNE

Melbourne City, Victoria

The resources and international reputation of the Royal Botanic Gardens lend prestige to the Friends' Botanical Illustrators, while the impressive talent of these artists adds creative lustre to the Gardens. The eighth biennial Art of Botanical Illustration exhibition will take place from 11 to 26 November with an expanded program of associated events. From a record number of 365 entries, about 160 works will be hung in Domain House. For the first time, the Friends invited an internationally-known painter to exhibit as guest artist – Pandora Sellars from the UK.

Professor David de Kretser AC, Governor of Victoria and the Friends' new Patron, will attend the opening reception on 10 November. Besides the paintings, the Friends Christmas card and a 2007 calendar featuring work by the artists will be for sale.

Our Growing Friends plant sale on 7 and 8 October raised \$27,663 in yet another rewarding result for these great propagators. On the Sunday, the Gardens Spring Open Day coincided with the Plant Sale attracting many extra visitors to each event. The Growing Friends donated 238 plants to the Gardens in the year ended 30 June.

The Friends have provided funds on many occasions for staff to attend conferences both in Australia and overseas. In August we contributed \$4000 to assist RBG's Manager of Public Programs to attend the 6th International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens at Oxford University.

RBG Director Dr Philip Moors visited Santiago, Chile, to advise on a proposed botanic garden which will display plants from the world's Mediterranean climate zones. As Australian flora will feature, Gwen and Rodger Elliot have followed up Philip's visit to discuss plant lists and soil types.

Dr Moors is the inaugural President of the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand, which the Friends have recently joined as an Associate Member. The RBG, recognised as a leader in 'best practice' irrigation management, will host a national workshop on behalf of BGANZ in late October. The Gardens have just installed new computerised automatic controllers for the irrigation system whose original ageing equipment is at risk of failure.

Two popular features were missing when the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden reopened in Spring after its annual two-month rejuvenation closure; the fountain and them mill have been turned off because of the drought. It is hoped to train 20 new volunteers over coming months to assist with the Garden's visitors. Seven-day-a-week opening was trialled during the September holidays.

The Childrens' Garden continues to attract interest from people seeking inspiration for a similar or modified project, including the Albury Friends, a group from Bowral NSW, Questicon in Canberra and the Melbourne Museum.

Visitor comfort has been significantly improved by the construction of much-needed new toilets; after renewal of the Oak Lawn block and removal of the old toilets on Tennyson Lawn, there will be seven sets of toilets in the Gardens.

The demolition of A Gate Lodge is to proceed shortly, facilitating improvements to visitor access and the planted landscape at this important entrance to the Gardens.

A collaborative conservation effort which involved the RBG Plant Sciences and Biodiversity Division has won the prestigious national Banksia Land and Biodiversity Award for

2006. The project focused on 80 Victorian species of highly threatened orchids, protecting more than 150 populations of 50 threatened species, and saving four critically-endangered orchids from extinction.

Another Australia-wide collaboration of major significance – the Virtual Herbarium Project – finished on 30 June. For five years a team at the RBG’s National Herbarium was involved in data basing, mounting and identifying specimens. Some 450,000 specimens in Melbourne were data based and mounted onto archival paper. The project has given the public internet access to all Australian capital city herbaria.

The Government has appointed Professor Mark Burgman from the School of Botany at the University of Melbourne and Ms Linda White, Assistant National Secretary of the Australian Services Union, to the RBG Board. They succeed Prof. Pauline Ladiges, who has served since the inaugural Board was appointed in 1992, and Mr Michael Bourke.

Friends’ activities since the last Campsis have included several ‘Fit Friends Rambles’ and Insiders Walks in the Gardens, as well as informal ‘Talking Plants’ gatherings. Illustrated talks ranged from the serious topic of Climate Change to the ever-popular Caroline Davies discussing the riches of plant species in Greece. The ‘House Full’ sign went up when Michael McCoy paid tribute to Christopher Lloyd. Recently we have enjoyed joint meetings with the Australian Garden History Society. Peter Timms spoke about his book on suburban gardens ‘Australia’s Quarter Acre’, and Richard Aitken recounted stories of botanical exploration from his book ‘Botanical Riches’.

At Friends’ activities, we always look forward to the delicious refreshments made by our Catering Group – 24 volunteers, some of whom have participated for more than 10 years. Now they have added, responsibility to inform the City of Melbourne of each event where food will be served, and to be prepared for inspection without notice to ensure that the Council’s Food Safety Program is being followed. Recently the caterers have acquired stylish aprons, in bold fruit and flower print with olive green binding, made by one of their number, Lorraine Mack. This has proved a simple, inexpensive and very effective way to grant them added recognition.

Following the business of our Annual Meeting on 13 November, the Friends will be addressed by Dr David Cantrill, recently appointed as RBG’s Chief Botanist and Director, Plant Sciences and Biodiversity. We’ll wind up our year with a party at Gardens House on 28 November. The Plant Craft Cottage and the Voluntary Guides have already celebrated their 25 years, and we look forward to marking our silver anniversary next year.

Heather Ironmonger

FRIENDS OF THE MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

North Coast, Queensland

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens (MRBG) has now been open for three and a half years and the growth of the development from bare grass to 35 hectares of lush plants has been wonderful to watch. Plants grow quickly in tropical areas, even in the adverse weather conditions of the past few years. The two pictures below show the change in three years!



Stage two of the Gardens was officially opened in July with a day of music and family activities. The new heritage gardens form an important part of this section, highlighting aspects of the gardens of significant Mackay citizens who lived in the area in the late nineteenth century. Considerable research went into discovering what plants they grew and the type of garden structures they had. Replicas of parts of those structures have been recreated to give a feeling of the history, making this section of MRBG very popular with our many visitors.

The children's *Under the Banyan* Play Garden opened in September and has rarely been empty since. The Play Garden has been divided into three sections with suitable challenges for different age groups. One of the most popular activities is the water trough. Children of all ages seem to have a natural affinity for water! There are still some mosaics to be placed in paths within the Play Garden, but these will be done after school has resumed.

Friends have continued to have a busy year, which will slow now the hotter months are upon us. There have been a series of planting bees at which Friends assisted. There are only four gardeners employed and they appreciate the enthusiasm Friends bring to the task of planting the many hundreds of plants in the new garden beds.

The small group of herbarium Friends meets twice a month and has progressed to the stage of having specimens returned from the State Herbarium for cataloguing and storing here in our herbarium. They are finding the exercise of collecting, drying and preparing specimens very rewarding.

Friends have been on another excursion, this time to a coastal area north of the city, where we were lucky enough to be shown many of the indigenous plants cultivated in the MRBG by one of the Friends, Meryl Ritchie. Meryl, a member of the local Society for Growing Australian Plants, is very knowledgeable about the local flora and has collected and propagated much of the material providing many plants for the Gardens.

Many local groups have held displays and musical events in the Gardens with about 5000 people attending *Global Grooves* in July – a multicultural music day to conclude Mackay Festival of Arts. The local Conservatorium students in conjunction with the ABC will hold another very popular *Jazz in the Gardens* this month and there are ongoing exhibitions in the Lagoons Gallery. Several times during the year the Gardens has been overrun by participants making paper from kenaf, or creating organic sculptures from locally gathered plant material.

Robin McWhinney (Secretary)

FRIENDS OF WARRNAMBOOL BOTANIC GARDENS

Western District, Victoria

It is 140 years since the Gardens were established on their present site and the Friends have been very busy planning celebrations which will culminate in a traditional Garden Party to be held on Sunday November 12.



2006 is also the year that the Gardens was placed on the Victorian Heritage Register and 100 years since Charles Scoborio retired after serving 34 years as Curator of the Gardens.

As part of the celebrations the Warrnambool Art Gallery will hold an exhibition showcasing the history of the gardens which Mayor Glenys Phillpot will officially open on Friday October 27. Marie Johnstone has written a detailed history of the curators since 1869 which will form a major part of the display. Pat Varley and Mandy King have compiled a story with photographs of our significant trees and plants. The exhibition will be on display until 26 November 2006.

A well attended film luncheon was held in August. The luncheon organised by Anne Kelly was especially enjoyed and we raised almost \$500 including \$120 from the raffle alone.

The renovation of the fernery has finally been completed. Under the guidance of Lorraine Deppeler additional ferns have been selected and all plants now growing in the fernery are specific to the Otway Ranges.

Warrnambool City Council is currently advertising the position of Curator for the Gardens. The Friends have argued for this appointment for many years. We hope a suitable candidate will be found, and the appointment made within the next few weeks.

Marigold Curtis

FRIENDS OF BENALLA BOTANICAL GARDENS & RIVERINE PARKLAND

North Eastern Victoria.

It's been another busy year for the Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens & Riverine Parkland. This spring we've planted two major beds using planting designs prepared by Andrew Laidlaw, landscape architect at the Royal Botanic Gardens. The first is the large bed between the Rose Garden and the oval, which forms the backdrop to the new Rose Garden and the other is the triangular bed at the main entrance. Andrew has used a fabulous selection of largely perennial plants in the design, focusing on foliage colour and form. As these beds mature they will make the Rose Garden precinct even more inviting. These exciting contemporary beds significantly expand the range of plants displayed in our Botanical Gardens.

The New Zealand collection planted a few years ago, adjacent to the Benalla Art Gallery, has been an outstanding success. Until recently however the two small beds at the Gallery steps were not completed. The Friends organised the removal of the ivy, replaced the soil and continued the New Zealand planting theme to very positive effect.

Another task that had been identified in our Conservation Plan was the removal of a large, unsightly concrete slab in the Heritage rose bed near the Rotunda. Our group recently organised

its removal, Council have agreed to provide more topsoil and come autumn we will be able to expand the collection of heritage roses to complete the bed.

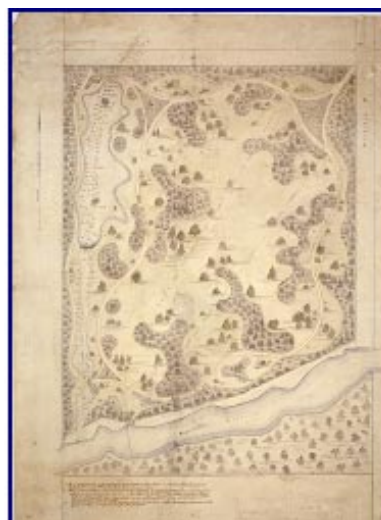
We are a very active group but only small in number and one of the challenges we face is to expand the number of active supporters and increase our public profile, to ensure the ongoing success of the group. To this end we have recently applied for a Victorian Volunteer Small Grant to actively recruit new members.

A wonderful community day is being planned to celebrate the 120th year of the Gardens. 'A Day in the Gardens' on Sunday 12th November will offer something for everyone. There will be a journey into history with the exhibition of historic garden photos. A quality market in the shady surrounds of the oval will run from 9am until 3pm. The historic rotunda will come to life with plenty of local bands. There will be old-fashioned children's games, a Teddy Bear's picnic, community activities, food, face painting and lots more. We're delighted that the Benalla & District Family History Group has undertaken the major organising role in partnership with the Benalla Lakeside Craft & Farmers Market. It's a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a great day out when Benalla's beautiful Gardens by the lake are at their best.

Sally Gamble (President)

TWO PROJECTS TO BE AWARE OF.

Archiving of Botanical Gardens Plans. The University of Melbourne is working with Friends groups, Historical Societies and Councils to electronically archive the plans of all Victoria's regional botanic gardens. Many of the plans live a precarious existence: although some have been restored, they are often kept in insecure old buildings in fluctuating environments. Existing photographs in many cases are not sufficient to reproduce the plans accurately at full scale, if an accident were to happen to the original. Electronic copying also allows the "removal" of tears and stains, as well as the easy production of copies.



The plans are photographed at high resolution under studio lighting, then scanned into a computer at a pixel size sufficient to reproduce the plans at full scale. They need to be kept overnight at the University's Parkville campus photographic studio. Costs are on a non-profit basis and are partially subsidised by the University. A contribution of \$85 is requested for each plan, for which you will be provided with a CD containing the full resolution image and two lower resolution images for general use. At the completion of the project, back-up copies of every plan will be lodged on DVD at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and the State Library of Victoria. If you want a full-scale print of your plan, you will need to find the additional cost (from about \$120 to \$200 depending on size); however, you might be able to access large-format printers through your local council.

So far, the project has made archival copies of plans for Camperdown, Geelong, Horsham, Daylesford and Creswick gardens. The Colac plan has previously been archived by the Royal Botanic Gardens (you may know of others that have already been done). If you would like to participate in this project, you should contact Professor Roger Cousens on 03 9250 6854 or rcousens@unimelb.edu.au

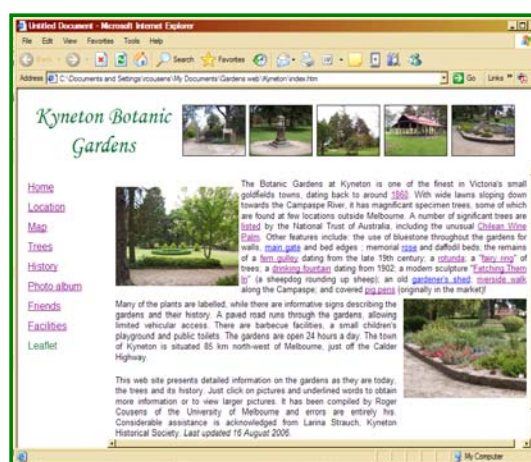
Regional Botanic Gardens Historical Web Sites. Most regional gardens now have conservation reports or some form of management plans that contain detailed historical information. These are not readily accessible to the general public. Photographic material is spread among Historical Societies, Friends groups, Councils, State Library of Victoria and individuals. Documents may be held by councils (or in many cases now lost), the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Public Records Office. Roger Cousens at the University of Melbourne has been bringing all this information together, compiling web sites of the history and current condition of regional Botanic Gardens. Examples of his work can be found at the following web sites:

Park Lake, Creswick – <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~rcousens>

Horsham Botanical Gardens – <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~horbotgd>

Roger is currently completing a site on Kyneton Botanic Garden and has Horticulture degree students doing research projects on two other gardens. His aim is to eventually compile an historical web site for every botanic garden in Victoria and to link them together by a web site describing the overall network of gardens in the State.

Roger is keen to work with Friends groups to produce similar web sites for their gardens. Importantly, no money is involved! It is entirely a labour of love. But some commitment of time is needed. From start to finish, each web site takes about a year of his (and your) spare time. He is happy to help you with the access to historical documents and to produce the web site, but would need help in writing the text, checking facts and in the overall design. For those who have never experienced it, this sort of historical research can be great fun- and reassuringly there is no need to learn all sorts of computer programming. Roger will make sure that this is taken care of and (if you want) show you how to do it yourself.



How do you become involved? Firstly, you might invite Roger to come to a meeting of your group. He will give you a talk on the history of some of the gardens and in doing so will show you the web sites that he has put together. Then you can discuss what is involved and work out who will do what tasks. Please contact him on 03 9250 6854 or rcousens@unimelb.edu.au

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS INC.

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www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

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Campsis

Campsis is published twice a year in May and November.

We welcome your articles, photographs and important calendar events for inclusion in the each issue.

To ensure publication, please send articles by mid March and mid September to arrive approximately 6 weeks prior to publication.

Forward *Campsis* material only to:

Amanda King: e-mail aking@eftel.net.au
OR by post to
P.O Box 987, Warrnambool VIC 3280

Editor & Printing Annie McGeachy
Format & Processing Amanda King.

Printing of *Campsis* -
Courtesy of Geelong Botanic Gardens

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2006 - 07

Association Conference at Orange Botanic Gardens
Autumn 2008,

For members event calendar visit the Association of Friends web site: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org/ and 'click' on events.

To include your event on the website contact the Web editor E-mail clrdnobs@vic.chariot.net.au
OR for those without E-mail, post details to the Secretary.

Warrnambool BG 140th anniversary exhibition WCC Art Gallery 27th October - 26 November

Benalla BG has 120th anniversary on Nov 12th

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Fungimap: To stimulate and support the study of Australian macrofungi through the accumulation, storage, analysis and dissemination of information about fungi.

www.rbg.vic.gov.au/fungimap/welcome/

The implementation of efficient conservation strategies for native plant species is essential to stem the rapid loss of biodiversity throughout Australia.
www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/seed_conservation.html

Help home gardeners garden in a way that minimises the environmental impacts.

www.sgaonline.org.au/history.html
www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/

Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens (BGANZ)
www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/newsletter
"The Botanic Garden"
E-mail Virginia.Berger@deh.gov.au.

Save water
www.savewater.com.au/

www.bgci.org.uk/
Botanic Gardens Conservation International

botanic_gardens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
This site has been created for 'garden' people only. The site is protected and monitored by Amanda King.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership of the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc. is for 12 months from January 1st.
New memberships paid after August 1st are valid until December 31st of the following year.

Membership fees are \$25

Cheques or Money Orders should be made payable to: Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Inc.

Applications and renewals should be sent to
The Secretary,
16 Pavo St Belmont. VIC 3216

Application and membership renewal forms are available on the website
The form will be posted to members without e-mail contact.

Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens

Members November 2006

A.C.T.

Friends of the Australian National Botanic Gardens Inc., GPO Box 1777, Canberra, ACT, 2601

New South Wales.

Friends of the Albury Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 323, Albury, NSW, 2640

Friends of the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 1068, Batemans Bay, NSW, 2536

Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens, PO Box 17, Orange, NSW, 2800

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney Inc. Cottage 6, Mrs Macquaries Rd, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Friends of Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens, PO Box 1393, Tamworth, NSW 2340

Friends of Wollongong Botanic Gardens, 61 Northfield Ave., Keiraville, NSW 2500

Northern Territory

Friends of the Darwin Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 36435, Winnellie, NT, 0821

Queensland

Friends of the Gold Coast Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 5653, Gold Coast Mail Centre, Qld, 9726

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Friends Association, PO Box 6850, Mackay, Qld, 4741

Victoria

Friends of the Australian Inland Botanic Garden, PO Box 2809, Mildura, Vic, 3502

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc., PO Box 33W, Ballarat West, Vic, 3350

Friends of Benalla Botanical Gardens Inc., PO Box 589, Benalla, Vic, 3672

Friends of Bendigo Botanic Gardens, PO Box 117, Strathdale, Vic, 3550

Friends of Burnley Gardens Inc., C/o Burnley College, 500 Yarra Boulevard, Richmond, Vic, 3121

Friends of the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens Inc., PO Box 391, Castlemaine, Vic, 3450

Friends of the Colac Botanic Gardens, 18 Fulton St, Colac Vic, 3250

Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 235, Geelong, Vic, 3220

Friends of George Pentland Botanic Gardens, Mark Brown, C/o 18 Waliki Crt. Lara, Vic. 3212

Friends of the Gisborne Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 564, Gisborne, Vic, 3437

Friends of the Grounds The University of Melbourne, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic, 3052

Friends of Hamilton Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 43, Hamilton, Vic, 3300

Friends of Karwarra Australian Plant Garden Inc., Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama Vic 3766

Friends of Kyneton Gardens, PO Box 1061 Kyneton, VIC 3444

Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens Inc., C/o PO Box 1520, Melton West, Vic, 3338

Friends of the Port Fairy Botanical Gardens, 115 Regent St, Port Fairy, Vic, 3284

Friends of the Portland Botanic Gardens, PO Box 1022, Portland, Vic, 3305

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne Inc., 23 Swan Road, Murrumbeena, Vic, 3163

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne Inc., Gate Lodge, 100 Birdwood Avenue,

Melbourne, Vic. 3004

Greater Shepparton Gardens Association Inc., 5 Gina Court, Shepparton, Vic, 3630

Friends of St Arnaud Queen Mary Botanic Gardens, RMB333, Canopy Lane, St Arnaud, Vic, 3478

Friends of St Kilda Botanical Gardens, PO Box 1089, Elwood, Vic, 3184

Friends of the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens Inc., PO Box 1190, Warrnambool, Vic, 3280

Friends of Wilson Botanic Park Inc., PO Box 412, Berwick, Vic, 3806

Friends of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, PO Box 267, Daylesford, Vic 3460

South Australia

Friends of the Arid Lands Botanic Garden Inc., PO Box 2040, Port Augusta, SA, 5700

Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Inc. Botanic Gardens, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Arboretum Inc., PO Box 370, Devonport, Tas, 7310

Friends of the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens Inc., C/o RTBG, Queens Domain, Hobart,
Tas, 7000

Western Australia

Friends of Kings Park, Volunteer Lodge, Fraser Ave., Kings Park & Botanic Gardens,
West Perth, W.A.

