

Number 2, December 2009

Coming Event

All members are warmly invited to the Williamstown Botanic **Gardens at 3.00 pm on Saturday December 12** to meet and get to know other members. We will meet on the **blue gum lawn** to the right of the main palm avenue when coming in from Osborne Street. Bring your own afternoon tea and picnic rug or chairs. Children's activities are being planned by Anja Lee

Lions Club

We would like to thank the Lions Club for their recent donation of \$100.00. This is deeply appreciated.

2010 Children's Activities

Anja Lee is planning to develop children's activities in the Gardens for 2010.

Would anyone interested in helping develop programs or helping to run them please write to

PO Box 826 Williamstown
or email
williebotgardens@gmail.com

Geelong Botanic Gardens Visit.

The Williamstown Friends' first event was a successful visit to the Geelong Botanical Gardens on November 21. Ten Williamstown Friends attended.

We were all impressed by the Geelong Gardens. Like the Williamstown Gardens, they date back to the 1850s. The original garden area is a traditional botanical garden with mature trees, lawns, roses and fountains.

The gardens have been doubled in size in recent years with the addition of a 21st century garden with an area featuring different regional specimens. The 21st century garden displays many unusual plants likely to be more suited to a drier future climate. The regional garden area displays plants typical of the Geelong region, as well as other regions such as the Anglesea wildflower area and the Brisbane ranges. Plants are all clearly labeled, which is very useful for visitors.

The Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens was set up in 1985 and has worked closely with the staff of the Gardens. There are over 500 members. They have made

a big contribution to the character of the Gardens today. There is an attractive Friends' teahouse, which is open every day and is set in the original garden area. The Friends also run botanical art classes and organize concerts in the gardens. The Friends have a propagation program which sells plants to the public and helps contribute to the upkeep of the gardens. There are substantial school programs and a well stocked library. The Friends Group publishes a quarterly newsletter.

Volunteers from the Geelong Friends Group run regular guided tours on Wednesdays and Sundays. Members of our group may wish to become Guides as a way of better appreciating the features of our Gardens and having the opportunity of meeting other people who have an interest in our Gardens.

While the Geelong Gardens are a bigger and better funded operation than the Williamstown Gardens at this stage, they provide a stimulating view of some of the things which may be possible in the future. We would like to thank Bridget Gubbins for giving up her time to show us the gardens and tell us so much about them. We hope that we will be able to repeat the visit in the future.

You are now warmly invited to formally join the Friends by completing and returning the [membership form](#) and relevant annual fee. We are particularly keen to encourage student membership.

(If paying directly into the Friends Bendigo Bank account please include your account name.)