

Wellingtonia

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FRIENDS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – JOAN GARNER

I do hope that you have all been able to keep warm and well through this old fashioned Ballarat winter. Our reputation for being the coldest place in Victoria is alive and well. The bright side of course is the wonderful rainfall and the fact that we can face spring and summer knowing that our trees have been well soaked and our gardens will benefit greatly.

I find it quite amazing the number of people that visit our Gardens on the coldest of days. The trees are so beautiful without their leaves and there is a true feeling of peace to be had in the winter months. Watching the lake fill up has also been a great and welcome pastime.

The Staff have been very busy preparing the spring plantings and the display in the Conservatory is certainly up to the standard for which our staff are known.,

It has been a quiet time for the Friends since our last newsletter but work has continued for all our special groups. We are quite busy between now and the end of the year as you will find in our "Coming Events" section in this newsletter.

The committee has set the re-furbishing of the McDonald gates as our next project. This will give a great lift to the Southern end of the Gardens; the estimated cost is around \$15,000. Our application for a Federal grant to purchase our own Power Point equipment was granted. This is very exciting as it will be used by the history group, the guides, the Education group and, of course, visiting speakers. This is the second grant we have received this year, the first being for the restoration of the Thomas Stoddart grave from the Ballarat Foundation.

Our August General meeting was very well attended and Guest Speaker Lynsey Poore, gave us a glimpse of the beautiful; and historic Gardens of Paris.

I look forward to seeing you at our various spring functions.

Joan Garner – President FBBG

GEORGE LONGLEY – the work of the gardener in the 1870s by Zelda Martin



The Ballarat Historical Society collection, held in the Gold Museum's archives, contains Minutes and Report books relating to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, although unfortunately a complete sequence of either is not available.

The *Botanic Gardens Report Book 1870–87* contains reports, on a fortnightly or monthly basis, from George Longley (Gardener, but later appointed Curator) to the Mayor and Members of the Municipal Council. Due to repetitiveness, spelling, and lack of punctuation and capitalisation, this book is not easy to read. Notwithstanding, it allows us to form an interesting cameo of the role of the Gardener at the Ballarat Botanic Gardens in the early 1870s.

In addition, the book provides detailed information about many aspects of the history of the Gardens. Most members are aware that Baron Von Mueller, Curator of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens and Mr Bunce, Curator of the Geelong Botanical Gardens, offered assistance in planning out the gardens, and in providing many seeds and plants. Perhaps not so well known was the assistance of Mr Moore, Curator of the Sydney Botanical Gardens, in supplying plants and bags of seeds to Ballarat. George Longley obtained Council permission to travel to Sydney, returning with 150 choice plants, 250 Seedling Oaks, a packet of seeds and 60 lbs of English acorns – the latter were particularly successful, and a further three bushels were requested in February, 1872.

Scattered throughout George Longley's reports are quite useful statistical details, such that in 1864, eight acres of the Gardens were under cultivation but by

1871 this had grown to 30 acres with some 1200/1300 forest trees planted. Longley also provides his estimates of attendances at fetes, picnics and special days such as Boxing Day. Thus he reports that 15,000 to 20,000 people attended a fete on 14 November 1871, indicating the great popularity of the Gardens. On 6/12/1870, George Longley states that the Gardens employed a regular staff of 5 men and two boys. He also regularly lists the numbers of prisoners employed (average about 12) and the work they were doing. This usually involved heavy tasks requiring little or no skills. Two aspects of the Gardener's life should be emphasised. First, much of the work George and his men were required to do was very mundane, and secondly, even in the early 1870s, George Longley had only limited control over his own work. The following extract from his report illustrates its boring and repetitive nature.

The chief work done for this last fortnight in the garden hoeing and clearing plants watering borders and raking walks carting dung from the park mowing croquet grounds collecting seeds put in various cuttings. (14/3/1870)

Despite his wide gardening knowledge, George Longley had to abide by Council decisions. For example, he reported that *"I beg to inform you that I have had instructions from the City Clerk to cart all the manure from the cattle yards to the Gardens"* (17/7/1871). Also in July, 1871, George pointed out to Council that about three years previously he had suggested that six blocks in Sturt Street should be planted with Oriental Planes and Pinus Insignis, and this was eventually carried out. On 31 July 1871, he wrote in his report to Council that *"not 12 months have elapsed until the Council received a letter begging to have them removed and Blue Gums put in their place."* (31/7/1871) He then pointed out very strongly the reasons why he considered Blue Gums inappropriate for city streets – all to no avail.

In 1872, George Longley prepared an inventory of tools. It was interesting to note that this inventory, containing about 70 different types of tools, was divided into *Gardening Tools*, *Blacksmith's Tools*, *Stable Tools* and *Tools Broken and Worn Out* (the latter includes *"1 dray very little good"*) 14/11/1871. The list of *'Broken and Worn Out'* tools was certainly an innovative way of informing the Council about the tool needs of the gardens. It should be remembered that Longley did have problems obtaining essential needs, for example, in October, 1872 he reminded Council of

the piece of netting 6ft by 3ft he required for "ketching gold fish".

It is apparent that, in addition to gardening, all the tasks relating to animals such as horses and ponies were carried out in-house – by just the 5 men and 2 boys. There were many occasions when his men were required to do other work, for example, one man spent six days repairing the swings while others had to paint the fruit carts, and do other repair work around the Gardens. We also read at various times of George and/or his men building fences, a potting shed and even a kitchen.

We also learn that organisations such as the churches, Water Commission, Pleasant Street School, Mechanics Bazaar, Benevolent Asylum, and even Ercildoune received large numbers of free trees and shrubs from the Gardens. George provides lists of these 'disbursements' – some months up to about 2000/2500 plants. He wrote in his report that if this continued, he would need to appropriate £15 – £20 for seeds each year. (21/6/1870) The task would also have tied up his workers for many hours each month.

Finally, there was a quirky little report about the horse. *"I made known to the council in the month of March of the horse dying belonging to the Gardens and have not had a substitute for it, the one which I have now is only a pony which cost about £3.10,- and it is not able to do that work: it will require a good rough horse: for roads are bad and the dung is heavy"* (17/7/1871)

All quotations are from various dates in the *Botanic Gardens Report Book 1870–8*; spelling and punctuation have not been changed.

I would like to acknowledge the kind permission of Roger Trudgeon, President of Ballarat Historical Society Inc. and Manager/Curator of the Gold Museum, for allowing me to use the Report books to write this article.

Zelda Martin

George Longley (1822-1899) served as Head Gardener/Curator for forty years from the 8th of December 1858 until shortly before his death on the 14th of October 1899. Not only did he lay out and develop the Ballarat Botanical Gardens according to the prize-winning design, much as we see them today, he also was responsible for the improvements to the lake foreshore within the boundaries of the gardens. By his 'indefatigable exertions' he transformed the bush wilderness into an 'earthly paradise'. His legacy to us is certainly a cause for celebration. Do come along to the Friends headquarters in the George Longley Building, just north of the Robert Clark Centre on Thursday 14th October at 4.00pm and find out more about the life and achievements of this remarkable man.

HISTORY GROUP REPORT

Much work continues on the library database. Recently we received a generous donation of several boxes of books from a noted early Australian Native Plant nurserywoman. This donation goes part of the way to filling a gap already identified in our library. Also several books on the subject of roses were received from the library of Garden Writer Peter Alston. We are also in the process of double-checking each entry to make sure it is correctly shelved.

Our PowerPoint presentations on the gardens have been on several outings, making this a valuable tool (not bad for what is really an old fashioned slide show).

Heritage trees details are being crosschecked for accuracy before a draft copy of the brochure is made available for comment. Hopefully it will be ready for George Longley Day. (And you must check out the 'new' photo of George in its frame)

Also of note is the cemetery tour on the 25th of November. This follows the Stoddart headstone restoration project. Check in this edition for further details.

The group has now instituted a regular '5 minute' talk on a topical subject. It is always a fun filled and informative in-depth occasion.

All are welcome at our monthly meetings. 4:30pm first Tuesday of the month. Or join us at our research desks at the Public Records Office on a Monday or Tuesday morning.

Lorraine Powell – History Group Coordinator

JOHN'S JOTTINGS

In 1920 the Mayor of Ballarat asked "pioneers" for "Reminiscences of their early days in Ballarat". John Ross, then 81, recalls: - *"Going to the Botanic Gardens I took a track along the North side of the swamp. What a dismal sight it was to look across the prairie of rushes, no water to be seen owing to the closeness of the growth, the only indication of water about was the awful sound of croaking of frogs and the sight of some Californian pumps where water carters got water to sell at so much a load to the residents of Soldier's Hill and other suburbs round about. Before entering the garden reserve by the North Gate where Bishop's Court now is the place was then occupied by a man who reared pigs and grew cabbages, very few houses were then on the north side of the Lake and very humble. When going along the Garden Reserve from here there was nothing to show much sign of a garden to be seen. However, I discovered Mr Longley, he was alone engaged digging a large circular bed in the centre of the garden. This bed contained a good collection of herbaceous plants and flowering shrubs and a good specimen of Cupressus Lautroliana planted in the middle. To describe all of the class of plants that I saw would make this paper too lengthy. I will write more about our beautiful gardens and our lovely lake at some future time if required."*

Whether he did or not, I do not know, but John Ross was certainly a renowned gardener, in charge of the Ballarat Hospital gardens for 55 years.

John Ross arrived in Ballarat in 1863 and this reminiscence would relate to that time. He had been born in Golspie in County Sutherland, in the Highlands of Scotland, on 28 Jan 1840. Having completed his apprenticeship as a gardener at Dunrobin Castle, he emigrated to Australia at the age of 24 aboard the *Golden South* which arrived at Sandridge, Melbourne, on 8 Jun 1863. He travelled to Ballarat by the new railway (built 1862) and was employed by Walter Craig as a gardener when Craig moved to his farm between Creswick Road and the New Cemetery. Ross then took up the position as Gardener at the Ballarat Hospital and worked there from 1871 until 1926 when he retired aged 85! He died shortly after on 10 Jun 1926, aged 86. In *"Sovereign Remedies"* by Anthea Hyslop there is a picture of him standing in the hospital vegetable garden and another by the large rhododendron tree that used to stand on the Drummond Street side of the Hospital until Yuille House was built. His work at the Hospital drew deserving praise over many years but his garden was gradually reduced and replaced by new buildings.

I believe the rhododendron tree in front of the House in Sturt St. (next to the Olive Grove and St Peter's church) is from a cutting of the rhododendron tree at the hospital which was moved from its original location to another part of the hospital. John Ross was succeeded as Gardener at the Hospital by Roy Mosman's father, E. Moosman (he later changed his original Swiss surname to Mosman.)

**John Ross (1840-1926)
in full highland garb,
Ballarat c1870**



This photo courtesy of gr gr grandson Neil North of Perth, WA, can be seen on the website Sutherland People, by Christine Stokes at www.countysutherland.co.uk/96.html.

Ross was a member of the Horticultural Society, a foundation member of St Andrew's Kirk and the Caledonian Society.

I cannot find *Cupressus lautroliana* in my Botanica, maybe our library has more information.

John Garner

ENGRAVING REPORT

Once again, it has been very quiet in this area of the Friends activities. Mike is coming along in leaps and bounds in his mastery of the equipment and we completed approx 60 labels in July. Hopefully there will soon be more labels for

him to make as Peter is drawing up a list for some trees. There have been no outside orders.

Adele Thomas

GUIDING FRIENDS' REPORT

We conducted a tour of 15 children from a country school in NSW. Although the weather was awful the children were delightful. Their intelligent interest and enthusiasm was rewarding for us. This was the second tour of a school group lately, and could be a growing trend. Their visit stemmed from our internet site. At our September meeting Peter Marquand will be talking about recent changes in the gardens and where we are heading to in the future. Our thanks to Joan Garner for stepping in to lead the guides while Raoul and I were away. What would we do without her? We still need more Guides. Is there anyone out there interested in joining our group?

Beth & Raoul Dixon – Convenors

GROWING FRIENDS' REPORT

Thanks to the Ballarat East Men's Shed we now have all our new benches installed for both the growing and sales areas. It is now easier and safer to work within our propagating and growing area, and the display of plants for sale is more appealing. This is reflected in our plant sales which have continued strongly during the colder months and should really take off with all the recent lovely rains.

We intend to set up a plant stall for the forthcoming Springfest and market day and encourage Friends to assist us with this venture. We have recently acquired a large number and variety of Bromeliads which we will be cultivating for sale in 2011. Thanks to all the willing 'Growers' for their continued support over Winter. A very warm welcome is extended to any new members who want to get their hands dirty with us.

Carolyn Pinkowski



New plant stands in the Friends nursery sales area between the Robert Clark Centre and the George Longley Building

EVENTS & SEMINARS REPORT

Members and friends enjoyed our last General Meeting on August 19th with our Guest Speaker, Lynsey Poore. Lynsey gave a wonderful insight into her three month visit to Paris with an illustrated talk on the beautiful ancient and modern gardens of Paris. Everyone loved seeing the grandeur and the display of flowers in the gardens.



It was interesting to learn about and see the planting regime in each garden, large or small. The French style is so different and so seasonal. We are pleased Lynsey was so willing to visit us and we have requested that she will come back to talk to us on another of her travels at a future date.

Above: Guest speaker Lynsey Poore

Below: Kathleen Hobson & Ann Fawell providing refreshments



COMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

(see the coming events column for full details)

THURSDAY 14th October at 4.00pm Nibbles and Drinks in the George Longley building.

SATURDAY 23RD and SUNDAY 24th October: Eight members will be opening their gardens to members and friends.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27th - Launch of the Ballarat Gardens in Spring.

OCT 28th – NOV 2nd Art Exhibition in the Conservatory.

Assistance required. Contact Carole 5338 8175.

THURSDAY OCT 28th Luncheon. Assistance required. Please contact Carole 5338 8175.

THURSDAY 18th NOVEMBER at 6.00pm. BYO food only.

SUNDAY 21st NOVEMBER AT 5.00pm. Mechanics' Institute.

Social visit with Friends of Minerva. Numbers required.

Contact Carole 5338 8175.

THURSDAY 25th at 3.00pm Ballarat Old Cemetery tour of Curators and Benefactors.

Carole Haines

EDUCATING FRIENDS' REPORT

Our first BotanKids Spring Event : JellyPots!

WHERE: near Lakeside Farmers Market [Windmill drive]

LOOK: For the green balloons

WHEN: 30th October 10.00am to 12.00pm

WHO: Children with adult

WHAT: Decorate a terracotta pot with oil pastels [weather resistant crayons] and plant a jellybean sedum plant

WHAT IF: It is a rainy day? Shelter will be provided in the form of a gazebo with pathway protectors.

PROVIDED: Potting soil from Nursery, small terracotta pots, gloves and masks available if required, scoops, information sheet, small rubbish bags to protect clothes, buckets, water, paper towels, oil pastels, tarps.

Volunteers needed on: Drawing tables, potting table, information table.

Keep an eye out for our other endeavours:

Ideas for other Seasonal events:

Summer: Music activity, busking public performance.

Autumn: Teddy Bears Picnic and Grandies in the Garden activities suitable for Grandparents to do with their Grandchildren, Arbour Day planting and potting plants indigenous to Ballarat.

Winter: Dress a tree, Farmers Market Quiz for children for our Winter activity.

Holiday activities: explore and draw, bring a tent and play, collage with leaves, music in the gardens, science in the gardens run by Uni students, story readings in the gardens, Young Mothers' groups activities: provide a cuppa and some simple music for toddler activities.

Ongoing 'Families in the Gardens' activities: Buckets of Fun! Trees, explore the statues, treasure hunts, make a fairy house. Remember our meetings are the first Tuesday in the month in the GLB 11.30am - all very welcome!

Julie Bradby – Convenor



*Daffodils in the Ada John Memorial Grove of Flowering Cherry trees, planted 1966, located on the corner of Carlton Street and Wendouree Parade, south of the Ex-POW Memorial
23 September 2010*

The blossom trees will be spectacular in the coming weeks.

CURATOR'S REPORT

While we rejoice in the recent above average rainfall I have been reminded of the saying that it never rains but it pours. A number of projects have been held up including the completion of path realignment works near the Hercules statue and painting of the Gillies street fence, due to it being too wet. Over the last winters very little time has been lost due to rain. It has been fantastic to see Lakes Wendouree, Burrumbeet, Learmonth and the Gong at the Buninyong Botanic gardens come back to life; Lake Wendouree is currently 65% full.



Swans and cygnets at Lake Wendouree September 2010

Dredging is due to commence on the Lake Wendouree rowing course on the week commencing October 5th with completion expected by June 2011. The site depot for the dredging contractor will be set up at St Patrick's Point

in the week commencing September 20th. More information on Lake Wendouree is available in the Lake Wendouree newsletter which will be available from the conservatory or at www.ballarat.vic.gov.au

In the last few weeks we have planted a number of trees within the gardens including a *Cupressus funerbris* and *Cupressus cashmeriana* on the main lawn, a *Wollemi nobilis* near the Adam Lindsay Gordon cottage, an *Araucaria angustifolia* and *Agathus microstachya* on the lawn west of the Robert Clark Conservatory.



The Floral Clock on Wendouree Parade has been planted with brightly coloured pansies. Spring flowers on display in the garden beds include borders of poppies outside the Conservatory and bulbs of daffodils, jonquils and tulips. Foxgloves and snapdragons will continue the display.



Tulips, primroses and polyanthus at the base of Wallace statue

In the Robert Clark Conservatory a stunning floral exhibition will open on Saturday 9th October. This will feature the traditional spring display of the delicate Schizanthus (Poorman's Orchid). It is always well worth a visit and entry is free.

Painting of the Statuary Pavilion is underway and this will be followed by the painting of the Craft Cottage.

Final plans are being put together for the return of the Morey gates; restoration and repair works have been completed. The gates were extensively damaged in July 2009 and removed from the gardens for repair in December 2009. I am certainly looking forward to their return. It will be good to get rid of the farm gate currently gracing the main entrance.

Peter Marquand – Curator

BOTANICAL ART GROUP

Botanical artists aim to capture the "essence", beauty and life of a plant without compromising on botanical details. It is a great experience for all who are working towards this.



Helen Turley's Passion Flower (*Passiflora cinnabarina*)



Botanical Art student Andrea Patterson at work with the group in the George Longley Building

The last workshop for the year will be held on October 2nd & 3rd with Stephanie Goss.

The exhibition of works by Marg Castle in conjunction with Ballarat Gardens in Spring should be inspiring and not to be missed. Enquires to Elizabeth 5334 7085

Elizabeth Gilfillan

FRIENDS OPEN GARDENS IN SPRING

For members and their friends

FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS MEMBERS' OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th October 2010
10.30am – 4.30am

DESCRIPTION OF GARDENS with Melway Ballarat map references

1. Joan & John Garner

104 Arapiles Street, Nerrina B166 D11

Our garden is now 10 years old. We planted with drought conditions in mind. The Front garden is Australian plants, bulbs and junipers with three Weeping Birches and a Forest pansy tree.

In the back we have a Golden Robinia, more Birches, ornamental Pears, Camellias and an array of plants we find fit the conditions.

2. Ann Maloney

309 Simpson Street, Ballarat North B166 A10

The garden is a large casual, unstructured garden. It contains many varieties of roses, interesting trees, various plants, bushes and a succulent collection.

Bulbs of many varieties are interspersed throughout – something for everyone.

3. Margret Currie

409 Havelock Street, Soldiers Hill B165 J11

A wild and rambling cottage garden on a large suburban sloping block. The garden is only 5 years old and thus establishment phase has been through the period of drought so most plants are tough survivors.

Garden philosophy? While we have purchased many plants that we really love, a lot of others have been cuttings from our previous garden or from friends and neighbours – and we are very lenient with 'drop ins' that self seed.

4. Nigel and Helen Long

1426 Sturt St, Lake Wendouree B175 B3 (nr cnr Parker St)

We are yet to fully implement our new Garden Design following extensive renovations to our home. We were able to retain some trees and our next project is the garden around our beautiful fountain.

The new Garden, started in Spring 2008, is a relatively formal garden, including structure, garden rooms, mature and small trees with various understorey plants.

5. Yvonne Curbach

7 Damon Court, Sebastopol B185 B4

Our garden began in March 2009. The ground was full of rocks and had very hard, compacted clay. Before it started to rain it took me days sometimes to dig a hole large enough for a tree or bush. I started on the front which we terraced and filled with good soil and mulch. I planted natives and a lot of bulbs. The backyard has large garden beds all along the fenceline, using new soil. Planted many natives, and tried to plant one of each as I don't like repetition. Planted many clematis, roses, a passionfruit and made a raised vegetable garden. Other plantings include many natives, bulbs, deciduous trees and perennials.

6. Joan Goldsmith "Woodside"

120 Fiskens Road, Mt Helen B186 C11

Woodside is a garden of surprises and pleasing views, established around eucalypts & pinus radiata, with a 27 year old fastigiate oak a special feature. Find the living gazebo, leading to a large pond in the Blue Garden, with a love seat close by. Enjoy a few minutes relaxing in the Potting Shed before searching for the latest project, a sculptural wooden arch.

7. Bob Whitehead "Bryan Teg"

81 Yendon - Lal Lal Road, Yendon B196 K2

Our property *Bryan Teg* has a garden of approximately one acre, containing a mixture of Australian plants and exotic trees and shrubs, plus perennials, bulbs, a gazebo and a small water feature.

8. Julie & Doug Bradby "The Miners Church B&B"

224 Scotchmans Lead Rd, Buninyong B196 A3

www.theminerschurch.com.au

Our country family garden of just under two acres has been developed over 40 years from a barren paddock of goldfields gravel with very little topsoil. Much energy went into dealing with boxthorn, blackberries and an overgrown cypress hedge. After a series of dismal failures and moderate successes, today's garden is a combination of hardy exotics and natives displayed in a number of rooms inspired by our visit to Sissinghurst. Water tanks supply all the garden needs. Plantings and pathways are ever-evolving to create playspaces for our grandchildren to discover. Of additional interest are the old buildings – the deconsecrated Wesleyan Church, the former Scotchman's Lead SS and a tram shelter relocated from central Ballarat.

BALLARAT GARDENS IN SPRING

27th October – 2nd November 2010. Featuring- Botanical Art exhibition - Margaret Castle Artist
Twelve gardens open for viewing
Special Children's event Saturday 30th October

Speakers Luncheon theme "New Directions" Thurs. 28th Oct.
Bookings and Enquiries to :- Elizabeth Gilfillan 53347085
thegilfillans@gmail.com

Or complete and send the following form:

Registration Form Ballarat Gardens in Spring

Luncheon Workshop 2010

Thursday, 28th October ~ 10am to 4pm

Guest speakers include:-

**Carolyn Blackman, Richard Barley
& Simon Griffiths**

The Robert Clark Centre

Tickets \$65.00 - Enquiries ☎0407 324466

First Name

Surname.....

Email

Postal address.....

Phone Number

Number of Tickets @ \$65.00each

Also includes refreshments on arrival & lunch with wine

Cheques made payable to:-

Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

Please forward this form with payment to :-

Ballarat Gardens in Spring

1119 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat 3350

WELLINGTONIA

Group convenor reports, photos and items of interest for 2010 to be sent to the Editor of the newsletter Helen Vincent by email: handh@ncable.net.au

Closing date for Summer 2010:

Monday 6th December.

Any members with computer knowledge who would like to help compile the newsletter please contact me on the above email address. **Helen Vincent**

To receive your *Wellingtonia* electronically please send an email request to Raoul Dixon <rdixon@ncable.net.au>

This list has grown to 50 members which amounts to significant savings in paper, ink, handling and postage.

MEETING TIMES FOR 2010

Meetings are held in the George Longley Building at the rear of the Robert Clark Centre.

Committee - 3rd Tuesday each month at 4.00pm.

Growing Friends - Tuesday each month 1.00-4.00pm, 2nd Sunday each month 1.00-4.00pm.

Plant Sales At the above times and daily from the trolley outside the Robert Clark Conservatory.

Guiding Friends - as required

History Group - 1st Tuesday each month 4.30pm.

Educating Friends - 1st Tuesday each month, late morning 11.30am, please bring lunch.

Plant labelling - as required.

Botanical Artists ("BAGS") – Mondays 10.00-4.00pm.



Winter or Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*) by one of Margaret Castle's botanical art students.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2010

BOTANICAL ART EXHIBITION & SALE

28th October - 2nd November – 9am to 5pm

Robert Clark Conservatory

Contacts: 0407 845 034 and 0407 324 466

Featuring works by acclaimed botanical artist Margaret Castle and our Botanic Art Group. Assistance required. Please ring Carole 5338 8175 if you are able to volunteer your time in this pleasant setting.

OCTOBER – Thursday 14th at 4.00pm

Help us celebrate **GEORGE LONGLEY DAY.**

Members are extended an invitation to attend and

remember our first Curator, George Longley. Enjoy nibbles and drinks in the George Longley Building.

OPEN GARDENS - Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th

October – 10.30am – 4.30pm. Members are invited to visit gardens owned by members. Morning and afternoon tea to be included at some gardens.

Wednesday 27th October – Launch of the program of events for Ballarat Gardens in Spring.

BALLARAT GARDENS IN SPRING- 28th October to 2nd November. This 3rd annual event features twelve beautiful open gardens to visit in and around Ballarat.

Details of the gardens featured are in the Ballarat Gardens in Spring brochure which may be viewed from the Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens website at www.fbbg.org.au
Maps are available from the Ballarat Tourist Information Centre, the Robert Clark Conservatory and all gardens.

SPRING LUNCHEON WORKSHOP – 'New

Directions - Thursday 28th October 10am to 4pm at The Robert Clark Centre. Guest speakers will be -

Carolyn Blackman – landscape designer & radio personality.

Richard Barley – CEO Australian Open Garden Scheme & Past Director, Melbourne Botanic Gardens.

Simon Griffiths – garden & landscape design photographer.

Tickets \$65.00 Registration essential 0407 324 466
(Numbers limited to 60) Assistance required. Please ring Carole 5338 8175

SPRING CHILDREN'S EVENT – "JELLYPOTS"

Saturday 30th October 10.30-1pm –

To be held at the Farmers' Market at Lake Wendouree across the Parade from the Gardens. Contact Julie 5341 3954 if you would be available to help make this a successful event for the children.

NOVEMBER Thursday 18th at 6.00pm

CHRISTMAS BARBECUE - invitation to members and their friends to attend a relaxing evening in the Gardens at the Robert Clark Centre. BYO food only.

RETURN SOCIAL VISIT TO THE MECHANICS'

INSTITUTE - Sunday 21st November at 5.00pm –

Please contact Carole on 5338 8175 or Committee members

BALLARAT OLD CEMETERY TOUR - Thursday 25th

Nov at 3.00pm – meet at the Macarthur Street entrance for a guided tour to the memorials of ten Curators and Benefactors of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

If undelivered please return to

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc.

PO Box 33W

Ballarat West, Vic 3350

"Wellingtonia newsletter"

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