

Wellingtonia

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FRIENDS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2011

President's Report



Elizabeth Gilfillan

What a heart warming sight, our Gardens this Autumn! The trees looking refreshed, begonias and flowerbeds are stunning and the lake full of water, has given rise to a most successful Begonia Festival, with hundreds of people enjoying the beauty. Congratulations and well done, to all who took part in the event and who worked so hard.

As a result "The Friends" are proposing to purchase a new labelling machine for the use of the Gardens & Growing Group.

We reflect on how fortunate we are, and how important it is to have fine places of beauty in our community, in times of turmoil and tragic events near and far.

It is a pleasure to be involved with our Gardens and to have the opportunity to learn and contribute through FBBG.

Having moved to Ballarat, "The Garden City", with my husband and 3 children 27 years ago, I quickly became a passionate gardener. We purchased a home with an historic garden, which soon became a steep learning curve. From this I developed a small retail nursery in Buninyong, and went on to practise Landscape Design, studying Horticulture at Glenormiston College, Garden History at RMIT, and I was also an inaugural member of The Australian Garden History Society. This has been an exciting progression from the Nursing Profession.

I am looking forward to this first year of Presidency, with plans for an interesting programme and goals, while working with a talented committee.

Elizabeth Gilfillan



MEETING TIMES 2011

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 week 1.00-4.00pm, 2nd Sunday each month 1.00-4.00pm.

Plant Sales at the above times and 9-5.00pm daily from the trolley outside the Robert Clark Conservatory.

Guiding Friends - 4th Tuesday each month 10am .

History Group 1st Tuesday each month 4pm

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.

Growing Friends



Carolyn Pinkowski

Autumn is with us and we look forward to continued good plant sales. The extraordinarily wet summer made caring for the plant stock easier and encouraged gardeners to continue buying plants. Consequently our sales results have been very successful.

The highlight of this season was the Begonia Festival, for which the weather was almost perfect compared with last year. Sales were so good that we will need to get in a lot more new stock to fill the plant benches. Plant sales totalled \$4290 for this long weekend. The help of all the Friends who volunteered their time over the three days was greatly appreciated.

Improvements to our work area continue to be made. We will now look at getting software to enable the Growers to print plant labels, rather than hand-write them in pencil. This venture will be in cooperation with the Gardens Staff.

Thanks to all the Growers for their continued attendance and enthusiasm. Thanks also to the nursery staff for their generous donation of plants throughout the seasons.

Carolyn Pinkowski



Group at AGM in February



Jane Luckcock, Jill Salathiel,
Jennifer McGregor-Clark



Adele Thomas,
Jack Martinich, Bruce Holland,
Lesley Lyons

Guiding Friends

Off to a good start this year with more tours than at this time last year. We also conducted tours of the Thomson Bequest statues during the Begonia Festival, as we did last year, at the request of the City Council.

At our monthly meetings we usually plan to have some form of training - either a tour of specific items of interest, such as Heritage listed trees, or a speaker on matters related to the Gardens.

We are always looking for new Guides and would welcome any member to come to our meetings. Don't feel that you have to have a detailed knowledge of the gardens. We provide training materials and there is no pressure to conduct tours.

Being a Guide is a great way to learn more about our wonderful Gardens.

So join us at the George Longley Building.

We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10.00am.

For further details contact me on 5335 9052.

Convenor of Guiding Friends.

Beth Dixon

Engraving Report

It is pleasing to have two more people come on board to increase the pool of people who can use the program and the engraver, and we welcome Joy & Terry O'Brien. After an initial lesson Joy has come and practised on her own, and then we have come together to iron out some of the issues. It will be good to have a couple of teams of people instead of everything relying on one person's knowledge. Hopefully we will get some work to do so the new found skills can be practised.

Adele Thomas

Educating Friends

The Decorating a Christmas Tree Event held on Dec 11th 2010 was a great success judging by the look of joy on the children's faces. We did notice the teachers were even starting to relax too. We received delightful handwritten letters from some of the children and teachers thanking us for the day. These are on display in the GLB.

On thinking and reviewing our year the Educating Friends have achieved a great deal despite our battles with the weather in staging some of the events.

On running our Jellypots and Christmas Tree children's events we worked with over 160 children and over forty parents carers and teachers. One would hope that would mean a greater insight and more connections with over 200 families in Ballarat to the Gardens. We are aiming for more in 2011!

Many families visited the Gardens to see their child's efforts with the Christmas Trees.

Our logo has been finalised, and will be available to use on all our handouts and materials. Keep an eye out for our grand launch of this in May. Thanks to Sue Beck for driving this project with her typical flair and enthusiasm.

We were inspired by an idea from the Art Gallery recently as a member noticed a self-guided children's tour in the form of a very child friendly brochure with lots of great ideas and activities. With the Art Gallery's blessing we have been given the brochure electronically and we intend to work on a few self guided interactive tours throughout the Gardens in the near future working, with the Guiding Friends and the History Group.

Geraldine Roberts has joined our through this year. Welcome Geraldine.

Please feel welcome to come along to our meetings, we do have fun! We meet the first Tuesday of every month except July and January at 11.30am in the George Longley Building and often in the Conservatory for coffee.

Our Program of Events: *This one will be over by the time you get this Newsletter.*

Autumn

Date: Linked to Begonia Festival and Farmers Market March 12th Where : Near Farmers Market and Playground.

Grandies in the Gardens /Teddy Bears Picnic Tuesday 12th.

April Grandparents bring along your grandchildren, a rug or chairs and settle in for a Story under New Story Tree [large oak near Hatchery] Keep eye out for flags signs etc. Date to be fixed. Will be advertised in the Courier. This is a free activity.

Mothers Day Poster School Activity: Be safe and Have Fun in the Garden Posters by local schools and Preschools.

Topic: Helping/ Playing/ Visiting safely with Mum/Nan/ Grandma/ special friend or neighbour in the garden. Highlighting safety when playing in the Garden. Possibility of

Highlighting safety when playing in the Garden. Possibility of displaying a sample of posters in the Conservatory; each child who has completed a poster to be presented at school assembly with a BotaniKids badge with our new logo as a participatory award.

Winter

As the winter display in the Conservatory is Under the Sea we are linking into this, highlighting the eleven different Oak Species we have in our gardens. Acorns and leaves have been collected by members already and these will be used in collage or model making as well as a conducted walk to see the trees and note their features.

This activity is in the school holidays. Charge \$5 each child 5th July. 2pm. RCC is booked if weather is unkind.

Numbers limited. Supervising adult to accompany each child. Registration required. See form enclosed with newsletter

Spring Activity 1:

Young Mothers Groups: Cuppa and cake for Mum, Collage and Musical Capers for Kids - Targeting Toddlers Thursday 1st Sept \$5 each child.

Numbers limited. Please register early. Supervising adult to accompany each child. Registration required.

Spring Activity 2:

School Holidays: Explore and Draw. Outside weather permitting or under cover.

\$4 each child. Tues 27th Sept 2.00pm.

Numbers limited. Supervising adult to accompany each child. Registration required.

Summer: Free schools event:

Decorate the Christmas trees as in 2010: Targeting neighbourhood schools. Friday 9th December - all day from 10.00am

Money will be collected at each event.

Events for Educating Friends Group that require registration

See form enclosed in newsletter.



Educating Friends working with a school group

John's Jottings

WEIGHTY MATTERS

The concern about obesity in the community reminded me that the Gardens used to have a weighing machine stationed outside the Statuary pavilion, and Joan tells me there was one outside the Almeida Rotunda. One machine not only informed you of your weight but also told your fortune. All for a penny! Letters from the Australian Automatic Weighing Machine Co. Ltd. to the Clerk of the Ballarat Council dated 1901 and 1902 enclosing a cheque for 4 pounds 10 shillings, rent for 3 machines at 30/- each per annum, so there must have been another one somewhere in the City. The original firm no longer exists.

The Gardens machine was removed after the introduction of the metric system in 1966 when it was pointed out to the Council that the machine did not conform because it showed the weight in pounds and ounces.

In 1979 Mr G.R.Coulson, the then Inspector of Weights and Measures, contacted the Weights and Measures Office at the Observatory Building in Melbourne, seeking information concerning current owner of the machine to be told that the Australian Eastern Engineering Co. no longer existed, being superseded by the Eastern Scale Co. In a letter to that company he explains that, "My reason for this request is that the particular weighing machine is considered as historic interest and would you be interested in negotiating to enable the Council to assume ownership. Council would need to obtain Ministerial approval to retain the existing chart."

There the trail ends at the moment. Possibly further information will come to light as the History Group continues to examine documents at the Public Records Office of Victoria. In the meantime if any members have information concerning the fate of our machine or reminiscences I'd be very interested to hear. During a visit to the Melbourne Zoo two years ago I noted a number of these old machines dotted around, maybe ours is amongst them.

If anyone has more information on this subject please contact:-

Secretary, Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens
PO Box 33W Ballarat West 3350
E-mail fbbg@ncable.net.au

EVENTS AND SEMINARS REPORT –

We had over 50 members and friends attend the Annual General Meeting who all enjoyed a talk by Christina Hindhaugh about the life of Adam Lindsay Gordon. What a fascinating life he had, and his connections with our fair city although brief was noted and valued. Christine was a most engaging and informed speaker.

Keep this date free !
Special Morning Tea

Thursday 14th April, 2011. 'Tis is a wonderful opportunity just to chat, have a cuppa and some refreshments with like minded people. Its a lovely way for new members to meet others and get the feel for what the Friends is all about. Please come along we need our members and new members please.

Carole Haines

Ballarat Gardens in Spring

Progress is going well for the 2011 Ballarat Gardens in Spring, with open gardens being finalised and guest speakers being confirmed. We are currently collating our application for funding from the City of Ballarat and publicity exposure has already begun to be targeted.

Friday October, 28th we will be holding our very popular Speakers Luncheon together with the program launch in the Robert Clark Centre and other associated events are currently being confirmed.

Helen Todd, Nancy Brewer, Wendy Taylor & Jan Todd
Ballarat Gardens in Spring Committee

Botanical Art Group

We are having a two day workshop for experienced artists with Jean Dennis from Castlemaine on March 21st and 28th. Jean's passion and long term project is to paint from the native state and Jean travels widely in Australia's remote areas to paint and catalogue the most rare of our plants. Recently she has been travelling Australia in search of all known species of the little studied genus *Brachybotan*.

Our group is planning to run a "Botanical Art Classes in Watercolour for Beginners Workshop" which will commence on Monday the 2nd of May and will run for 5 consecutive Mondays until the 30th of May.

We are looking for interested people to take part in this workshop so please contact me on 0417 672133 or 53497433 if you would like to be a part of this.

New members welcome.

Andrea Patterson

Convener of the Ballarat Botanical Art Group 2011



Jean Dennis (Botanical Artist)
Lucy Brisbane (Student)

Curator's Report

I write this report in the week after the Begonia festival. The marquees, entertainers, and large crowds have now gone and the gardens are returning to normal. Visitors are coming to enjoy the Begonia display and early autumn in the gardens.

We had many positive comments about how good the gardens looked: particularly the floral display and the western bed during the festival weekend. Many participants in the curator tours were glad to see that we had survived after many tough dry years. Last summer will be remembered for being particularly kind to gardeners, even if my tomatoes won't ripen with the relatively cool days and quantity of rainfall.

It was good to see how well the Friends' nursery did, and how many members volunteered their time over the weekend, with many of the benches looking very empty on the Tuesday. The nursery was a hive of activity with visitors buying plants and also taking advantage of the plant crèche. Thanks also to the Guiding Group for taking the statues tours.

Within the next few weeks we will be removing the summer display and making preparations for the next planting. The leaves have already started to fall, the seasons continue.

Peter Marquand

History Report

The first meeting for the year was spent productively, preparing for our Ballarat Old Cemetery Tour – Curators and Benefactors associated with the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Speakers were assigned their respective subjects, and told the time limits (2 mins). Jennifer Burrell produced a wonderful handout brochure, which was reproduced for the expected attendees. This briefly described the subjects and their location in the Cemetery grounds.

A radio spot on local ABC with Dominic Brine was organised as publicity. The Courier was also in attendance at the Cemetery. (One Cub-photographer and to date no sign of anything actually published.)

People came from as far as Kyabram for this event. In fact over 40 attended what proved to be a very cold afternoon. (No piper, so no Scottish mist this time). We thank all who attended, and encourage feedback. A very positive e-mail from Cemetery Manager, David Beames was received the next day.

This month we say farewell to Joan Hunt. She heads off to Britain for two years. (Purely in pursuit of Gardens related research, of course).

Heritage Trees information is still being cross-checked for accuracy and content. We encourage all groups, particularly the Guides, to add information and commentary.

A Stakeholders meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 25th May 11:30 – 1:30pm in the Conference room State Government Offices. This will be attended by Lorraine, and reported on at the May meeting

Lorraine Powell

Eileen Harrison Lawrie was born in Ballarat in November 1925. She attended Pleasant Street Primary School, then Queens Anglican Grammar School where she was Head Girl in her final year.

Eileen started her nursing career at the Ballarat Base Hospital before joining the staff at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne. During this time she had a sea change with a stint as the nurse at the Hamilton Island Resort; a rather exotic adventure before returning to Melbourne and her flourishing nursing career.

When the Australian Navy reinstated the Royal Australian Nursing Service, Eileen was one of the initial intake. Eileen loved the Naval life and had many postings in both New Guinea and Australia as Matron in the RANS and obtaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

She had a very distinguished career and was awarded an AM for her service to the RANS.

On her retirement, Eileen returned to the family home in Ballarat, and put her many talents and interests into use with her involvement as a board member of the Ballarat Children's Home, the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery Ladies Committee, the Old Grammarians Association, a foundation member of the Friends of the Gardens, fine needlework, the daily crossword and her trips to Point Lonsdale.

Heather Boyd



Eileen Harrison Lawrie



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2011

Please note all these dates in your diary

APRIL – Special Morning Tea 10.00am Thursday 14th

Members are invited to come and enjoy morning tea and have a pleasant morning together.

MAY – General Meeting 10.00am Thursday 19th May

Guest Speaker is Richard Aitken, an author who has written many books on gardening including 'The Garden of Ideas' a book many members purchased recently. The meeting will be a brief talk by Richard followed by a forum of questions and answers.

AUGUST – General Meeting 10.00am Thursday 18th (Speaker to be finalised)

OCTOBER

GEORGE LONGLEY DAY – 4.00pm Thursday 14th at the GL Building.

Members are invited to come and enjoy nibbles and drinks to celebrate the life of George Longley.

SPRING OPEN GARDENS

Gardens open around Ballarat 28th October---1st.November

SPRING LUNCHEON Friday 28th. October

NOVEMBER

FRIENDS OPEN GARDENS – Members Gardens November 19th. & 20th

Gardens owned by members are open to members of the FBBG.

Any members interested in opening their gardens contact Joan Garner ph.53326461 e-mail jfgarner@tpg.com.au

HelpWith Newsletter

If any members are able to help me with the collating of the newsletter please either ring me on 4308 0386 or email: handh@ncable.net.au.

We only need four people for 2-3 hours four times a year.

Helen Vincent—newsletter editor

The Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens

are offering
Botanical Art Classes in Watercolour
for
Beginners.
Classes will commence **Monday, 2nd May, 2011**
and will run for 5 consecutive Mondays
until
Monday 30th May, 2011.
Classes will be held at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens,
from 10am to 4pm.
Cost TBA
For enrolment and enquiries please call
Andrea Patterson on 0417 672 133
or
Helen Turley on 0400 647 144.



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