

Wellingtonia

ABN 32 346 573 092 ACN 3465 info@fbbg.org.au www.fbbg.org.au

Tel. George Longley Centre 5342 9354 PO Box 33W BALLARAT WEST 3350



NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2014

President's Autumn 2014 Report

Greetings to all FBBG members from your new 2014 Committee. We welcome three new members: Trish Twaits, Diana Dunne and John King. The roles of all committee members are listed on page 12 of this edition.

Our very deep appreciation and thanks to **Elizabeth Gilfillan** for her wonderful achievements as President over the past three years. Our Statement of Purpose outlines ten key activities for the Friends and, under Elizabeth's leadership, they have all been achieved in considerable measure. Of particular and lasting significance were the channels of dialogue opened with the City of Ballarat Chief Executive Officer and his staff. The CEO's readiness to fund and accept expert, independent, professional, horticultural advice will have major significance on the future plans and development of the Ballarat Botanic Gardens. The appointment of Professor Tim Entwistle as our Patron, and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CoB and the FBBG were significant highlights.

Elizabeth will continue to offer wise counsel and guidance as our Immediate Past President. Her award of Life Membership of the FBBG was just reward for all she achieved, and set in motion.

Congratulations to Yvonne Curbach on her award of Life Membership of the FBBG. She has given valuable and dedicated years of service to the Growing Group and willingly accepted the responsibilities of Convener of this hardy group. She is a tireless worker in the plant nursery, leading her group in potting and growing a range of plants for sale, restocking our 'Plants for Sale' trolley and maintaining a schedule for watering the plants across the Summer months.

To the Future: As the FBBG has grown its range of activities have diversified to the stage where keeping abreast of proceedings is indeed a pleasant, but daunting challenge. This task will be made easier by having a strong representative committee including the conveners of each group. Support and encouragement will be given to all initiatives that advance the cause of the Friends, within the guidelines set out in our Constitution, Statement of Purpose and Memorandum of Understanding.

We will continue to encourage community recognition and appreciation for the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. We will work cooperatively and professionally with relevant CoB staff at all levels to enhance the horticultural standards and reputation of the gardens. In particular, we will work positively and constructively with all BBG staff. Activities of our existing groups have done much to cultivate these relationships. New initiatives such as the Western



Much excitement for out-going President Elizabeth Gilfillan as newly inducted President Mike Sorrell awards her Life Membership

Bedders and OH&S joint training sessions will reinforce these relationships.

The effort, work and results of all our groups have raised the profile of the Friends and will continue to be encouraged by this committee. Wider promotion and more effective communication of their activities, particularly using our website, are required.

The 'Fernery' redevelopment will be a major and exciting, long term project. The Friends should play a significant role in determining its functions, its construction, its contents and its usage. This is an ambitious project which may need to be achieved in stages. It has the potential to be a real focal point opening through to the north gardens. It should make major contributions to the educational and scientific standing of the BBG within our local community and enhance the reputation of our gardens nationally and internationally.

We will continue to expand our contacts with as wide a range of horticultural groups as possible. Attendance and contribution to conventions, seminars, visits and talks conducted by professional gardening associations will be strongly encouraged.

Your committee has arranged a busy and diverse programme of events with stimulating guest speakers over the next 12 months. All Friends are cordially invited to participate and contribute where possible. Your support, encouragement and attendance at these functions will be much appreciated.

I look forward to working with you all to continue to achieve the widest recognition and appreciation of our wonderful botanical gardens.

Mike Sorrell



FBBG Patron:
Prof. Tim Entwistle,
Director and Chief
Executive, Royal
Botanic Gardens
Melbourne.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS EDITION?

President's Report	1	Curator's Report	7
Guiding Friends	2	Education & BotanKIDS	9
History Report - Gondwana	4	Fernery Redevelopment	10
Reports	6	Photos - Begonia Fest & AGM	11
From the President's Desk	7	What's On 2014	12

Guiding Friends – Autumn 2014

Sunday Morning Autumn Guides tours

During autumn the guides conduct Sunday morning tours at 11 am. We conduct these in autumn and spring and so escape the days of severe heat or cold. It is sometimes disappointing when guides have no one interested to take up these tours so please help us communicate awareness of this Sunday morning opportunity for locals and visitors to Ballarat. The tours are a relaxed and leisurely stroll around the gardens with a guide who can respond to questions and give some relevant information to add to the appreciation and enjoyment of these gardens. Meet the guide in front of the conservatory at 11 am. Gold coin donations would be appreciated. They will be used to fund projects within our gardens.

Booked group tours

Guides have been busy with group tours. In the peak weeks following the Begonia Festival it has sometimes been hard to meet all the requests for guided tours. More guides will help us cope more comfortably in these times of high demand.

We have 12 well informed guides and all contribute to making the guiding group a happy and active group. We are always keen to recruit more guides so let us know if you would like to join our group.

Lorraine Huddle has joined the Guiding group this year. Lorraine was the Heritage Adviser for the City of Ballarat in 1998-2002 and specialises in the assessment of places of cultural significance. Lorraine also has interest and skills in interactive communication with e-books and we look forward to her input and being a valued part of our guiding team.

Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens : Guided Autumn Tours

Find out more about the Gardens while strolling with a Guide.
Tour takes approx. hour
An activity for friends and relatives when visiting Ballarat.

11am Sunday morning
Meet at the Conservatory, gold coin donation
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 April 6, 13, 20, 27
May 4, 11, 18, 25

Euroa Probus Club on a recent visit being addressed by garden staff member Karen Godfrey



The groups coming through the gardens in March and April have varied from Probus groups to Travel tour groups to garden competition entrants in a Public Housing Competition to Order of Australia group. All varied and many different interactions. Karen Godfrey, Gardening staff, has helped out on several occasions sharing her expertise on begonias. Sometimes this has been at very short notice and we have very much appreciated her informed commentary and help with the large tour groups in the conservatory to see the begonia displays.

U3A Ballarat Botanical Gardens Course

In 2014 we are conducting for the second time a course for U3A on the Ballarat Botanical gardens. This has been receiving many positive comments about its value. The willingness of the Guides and others to prepare special presentations for the course has been widely appreciated. It is providing a great way to broaden and deepen our knowledge of these gardens. The list of presenters and topics gives you some idea of the content and range of topics covered.

Guides – Jane Munro (Western Bed and Statues), Sandie De Groot (Conservatories), John Garner (Statues), Terry O'Brien (History, PM Avenue), Michael Bird (PM Avenue), Wendy Sandiford (Western Bed), Elizabeth Gifillan (Role of Botanic Gardens, Western Bed), Beth & Raoul Dixon (Trees). Other presenters are Lorraine Powell (History, Sequoias), Beryl Plummer (Western Bed), Peter Waugh (PM Avenue), Peter Marquand (Admin), Mike Sorrell (Friends role and groups), Peter Carter (Begonias) and Karen Godfrey (Green houses)



Lorraine Powell and Terry O'Brien with Ballarat U3A course participants on History tour

Continues on page 3



FBBG Guide Sandie De Groot outlining the history of the various Conservatories at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens during a recent session for the U3A course.

Other garden visits

As guides we take pleasure in exploring and learning about other gardens. Late February the Guides and others had a picnic tea at the Moorabool Reservoir Park. It is a charming and interesting park that has to some extent been forgotten since its heyday when it was the showpiece garden of the Ballarat Water Commission. Now a small group of volunteers is maintaining and developing the site. We all enjoyed the tour given by the President of the Moorabool Reservoir Friends Group, Dennis Spielvogel, and learning about its history and the plantings.

Our next garden visit will be to the Melton Botanic Garden on April 22. About half of the world's botanic gardens have been created since the middle of the 20th century and the grand vision for this one at Melton started in 2003. The first plantings were in 2008. We will be interested in their indigenous plantings and their eucalyptus arboretum. They are growing small to medium eucalypts that tolerate a dry

climate and low water conditions. There is great respect and appreciation of what is underway here and their "can do attitude". This will be such an asset in the years ahead in this fast growing part of Melbourne. This Botanic Garden project is one way forward amid the loss of plant species that we are experiencing in the Western Basalt plains.

Other Guiding activities

Our Ballarat gardens are a venue for recreational pleasure to enjoy the plants and surroundings but as a botanical garden we can also tap into many of its other roles. The earliest botanic gardens were devoted to study and teaching of medicinal plants. John Garner is going to facilitate the guide's quest to locate and learn about the medicinal plants in our Ballarat Gardens and look at the link between botany and medicine. Preliminary discussions are also underway with the history group to tap into the Garden's links with World War 1 and develop a themed walk and materials to coincide with the Anzac Centenary in 2015.

As guides we are always on a learning curve and discovering and exploring new insights into the Ballarat Botanical gardens. We appreciate these opportunities and enjoy the sharing and contributing that are all part of guiding.

Don't forget – if you have an interest in the Gardens and the time to spare, why not become a Guide? It is a rewarding experience and a great way to meet people while learning about the gardens themselves.

Terry O'Brien, Convenor of the Guiding Group for FBBG

Melton Botanic Garden is located at the corner of Tullidge Street and William Street, Melton.



Some pictorial glimpses of the 2014 Begonia Festival

History Group: New Feature -- 'Tree of the Month'

"Relics of our flora that have survived the dissolution of the Gondwanan landmass are especially important in understanding where we have come from". (GEORGE SEDDON – *The Old Country Australian Landscape, Plants and People*, 2005). 'Tree of the Month' will focus this year on trees found in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens which are considered to be species of Gondwana.

But what do we mean by Gondwana?

The name **Gondwana** was first used by the 19th century Austrian Geologist Edward Suess, inspired by the Gond kingdom in India whose people acted as caretakers of sacred sites in the Narbada Valley. It is a Sanskrit word of two parts- *Gond* for the people of the Forest and *Vana* for the forests.

A theory of the Continental Drift was first proposed by the German geologist Wegener (1880-1930) in 1912. Today, the dating of geological history is more definite and plant origins are traced through the DNA of fossils of known age and affinity, making a definitive analysis of the plant and animal kingdoms possible. Wegener's theory in a modified form is generally accepted and, alongside Plate Tectonics, forms part of our understanding of the natural world.

Wegener postulated that the Supercontinent Pangea first split 150 million years ago to form Laurasia in the north and Gondwana in the south with a second breakup beginning in the Mesozoic era. The supercontinent Pangea saw the evolution of the ferns and cycads as well as such 'fossil' plants as the *Ginkgo biloba*. A third split 55 million years in the Cenozoic era saw Australia start to break away from Antarctica as the age of flowering plants and mammals commenced. Rocks 350-150 million years old are replicated in seven landmasses - India, Africa, Madagascar, South America, New Zealand, Australia and Antarctica lending further support to this theory and are termed 'Gondwanan'. Australia remained attached to Gondwana for a further 10 million years as the families *Proteaceae* and *Haemodoraceae* developed.

Under the general term 'Gondwana' there are three main groups of plants:-
Families, mainly conifers that had their origins on the supercontinent Pangea:

The family *Araucariaceae*, which comprises three tree genera:-
Agathis, *Araucaria* and *Wollemi*.

The family *Podocarpaceae* with seven out of a total of 18 genera located in Australia.

The family *Winteraceae*, found in Australia and in South America.

Families with primary distribution in lands of Gondwanan origin:

The family *Proteaceae* is the main representative of this group.

Families predominantly confined to the Southern Hemisphere:

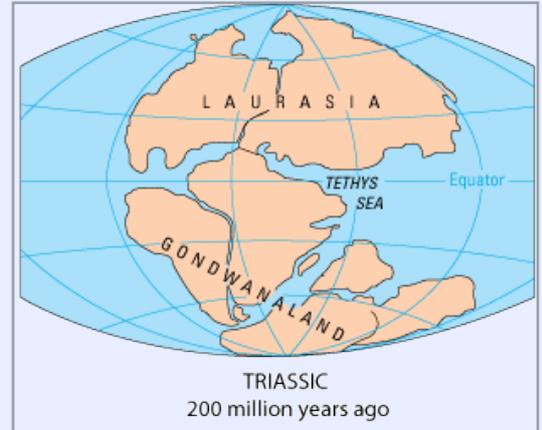
This includes the family *Haemodoraceae* or Kangaroo Paw.

In our **Ballarat Botanical Gardens**, these groups are represented by the following trees. (Note this list is by no means comprehensive, and until a thorough audit and survey of the trees is completed there may be some glaring omissions.)
Araucaria bidwillii, *Araucaria heterophylla*, *Araucaria angustifolia*, *Araucaria columnaris*, *Agathis nobilis*, *Agathis robusta*, *Wollemi nobilis*, *Podocarpus falcatus*, *Drimys lanceolata*, *Drimys winteri*, *Telopea* cv 'Shady Lady', *Banksia* specimens, *Stenocarpus* sp, *Grevillea* sp, *Hakea* sp, *Leucospermum* sp

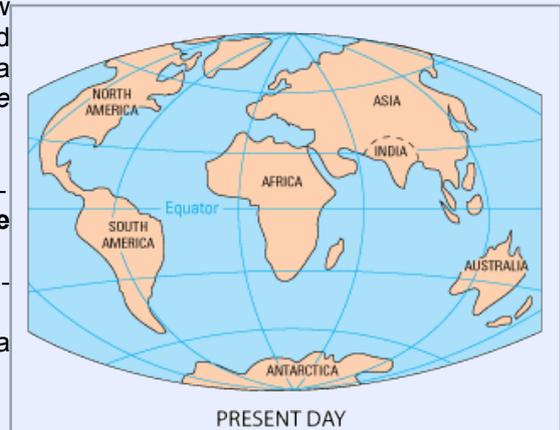
The families confined to the Southern Hemisphere are predominately perennials and shrubs but also include *Allocasuarina* sp, *Corymbia* sp, *Bachyichiton* sp, *Angophoras* sp, *Eucalyptus* sp, *Acmena* sp, and *Sophora*.

The first tree to be focussed on is *Araucaria bidwillii* the **BUNYA BUNYA**, or **BUNYA BUNYA PINE** (Bunya is derived from the indigenous name for the plant.)

Araucaria – f. Monkey Puzzle tree. A genus of conifers; confined to Australasia and South America, taking both the generic name and the specific epithet, *araucana*, of the type species from the Araucani Indians of central Chile in whose territory it is native. The Norfolk Island species (*A. heterophylla*) was discovered on Captain Cook's second voyage (1772-1775) and introduced into cultivation in 1793.



Is this how our present continents were formed?



Continues on page 5

Continued from previous page:

A. bidwillii – named by Hooker in honour of John Carne Bidwill (1815-1853), English gardener and cattle-dealer in Australia and New Zealand, who collected many New Zealand plants. (WILLIAM T. STEARN - Dictionary of Plant Names for Gardeners 1994)



A Queensland native, it is a large domed evergreen resinous conifer to 45m, though rarely reaching this stature in cultivation. They grow naturally in moist forests near Gympie and Port Douglas, often rising above the main canopy of the forest, alongside Hoop Pines.

When older, the trees tend to shed their lower branches. Leaves are spirally arranged and lack stalks or mid-ribs. The branches are whorled and usually horizontal. The bark is greyish black often warty and wrinkled like an elephant hide.

Male cones are solitary or clustered, generally drooping from the branch tips. These are the largest male conifer cones. The massive female cones are globose to ovoid and held erect above the branches like pineapples. The cones ripen in 2-3 years and may clearly be seen in the uppermost branches in March and April before falling apart as the seeds mature in mid-late summer.

The seeds were roasted or boiled and eaten by the local tribes at three-yearly feasts. They are said to taste somewhat like parsnip. Groves of trees were often under a particular tribal ownership.

In cultivation, their formal architecture saw them used as strong landscape plants in the earliest colonial gardens of Australia and widely planted in large parks and gardens of the British Empire. Six of the mature specimens in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens are on the National Trust Heritage listing.

Peter Marquand, Manager of the BBG, shows a bunya cone that recently fell from a considerable height onto mulch in the South Gardens March 2014. (photo Lorraine Powell)

Lorraine Powell

HOSPITALITY REPORT

Annual General Meeting: I wish to thank all members who helped with the preparation and serving of refreshments in my absence. It was a very busy morning with over 60 members and guests attending.

Twilight Meeting: 25 March – With over 40 members and guests attending the interesting talk by Celia Burnham, most took this chance to socialise during supper. Thank you to members who assisted with refreshments.

Special Morning Tea: 17 April, 2014 - I would like to ask for members to help with the preparation of the meeting room and the serving of refreshments. Please contact me on 53 388 175 or 0458 533881.



Diana Dunne, a new Committee Member, has offered to help with the arrangements in organising our refreshments. Thanks and welcome Diana.

Our next catering is on the 22 May at the FBBG General Meeting.
Carole Haines, Convener

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER FOR FBBG MEMBERS!

Payments to FBBG are available via eft!

- Please use your **surname** and **first initial** as your id.
- Account name: Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens
- **BSB** 633 108
- **Acc. Number:** 125334615

DISCOUNTS FOR FBBG MEMBERS AT LOCAL NURSERIES, 2014

- **Formosa Gardens Nursery** 104 Leith St Ballarat 5% off all stock
- **Grow Master** 9527 Western Highway Ballarat 10% off plant purchases excluding advanced trees
- **Spot on Pots** 13-15 Wallis Street Delacombe 10% off all purchases
- **Blackwood Ridge Nursery**, Trentham-Greendale Rd 10% off all purchases

Reports:

Western Beds Group Report

On 26 February the Western Beds Group met with David Glenn (Lambley) to discuss the restoration of the "Grasses Bed." It was agreed at the meeting that the existing plants be removed, stored and replanted, where appropriate, along with new plantings. David has offered to assist with the planning and planting.

As this bed contains a number of monocotyledons, it was decided to keep this theme, adding new specimens once the bed has been rejuvenated. We have also suggested that a path be put in, to allow visitors to move closer to the existing trees.

A proposal for the work has been submitted to Peter Marquand for his consideration and we are now awaiting his response.

Beryl Plummer, Group Convenor

GROWING FRIENDS GROUP:

Another Begonia Festival is over. All the hard work of a dedicated bunch of potting volunteers over the past few months seems to have been somewhat in vain, due to the fact that our little nursery and its plants for sale was not advertised in any of the brochures of the Begonia Festival programs or leaflets. This was a great disappointment.

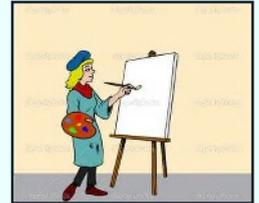
Thanks to all those regular potting friends for all the hard work and turning up for the selling of the plants at the Festival. We could not have done what was achieved without you.

Now we have to get busy potting up plants for the upcoming Springfest. Hopefully that will be better patronised.

Yvonne Curbach, Convenor

BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

The group began the year with a most enjoyable workshop run by Geraldine Roberts. Seven participants over the two days resumed painting and will continue Painting on Mondays 10 am -3 pm during school terms.



New members are welcome to join at any time.

We will meet in the George Longley Building. Bring some lunch or you can go to Pipers. Tea & Coffee is available.

Please ring the George Longley Building 5342 9354. or email info@fbbg.org.au to register your interest.

Elizabeth Gilfillan



Day one, and hard at work!

The Friends Botanic Artists at work on their latest projects.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

The recent Begonia Festival was an outstanding success in many ways, highlighted by a wonderful display of Ballarat's most famous flowers. The comments from the thousands who passed through the Conservatory reflected with amazement on the range of colours, shapes, sizes and 'almost perfect' blooms. Out in the gardens the beds of annuals were very attractive. The beautifully decorated reindeers and the baskets of flowers adorning the fish pond were highly creative. Congratulations to all the gardening staff, including the apprentices, for a magnificent job. And congratulations to the City of Ballarat staff who planned and executed this very successful event.

Blessed with fine weather the festival came to life with many activities for families and children. Our Educating group put on a marvellous show for the BotaniKIDS over the whole three days. Our Growers were disappointed with fewer sales than in past years. We will address this situation and request a number of changes for Begonia Festival 2015.

It was exciting to hear so many children talking and asking questions about the gardens. I heard one enthusiastic child asking mum how old and how tall was one particular Sequoiadendron. How long before their interest leads them to enquire more generally about the oldest plant, the largest plant, the smallest plant, the variety of plants, or the relationships between plants?

In the next few editions of our *Wellingtonia* I will attempt to answer some of these questions, and pose more. Even something as fundamental as 'What is a plant?'.

Keep well and enjoy your gardening.

Mike Sorrell

CURATOR'S REPORT

The 2014 Begonia festival has been and gone, the marquees have been packed up, the lawns renovated, the gardens have returned to relative normality. The festival was successful in several ways with many people enjoying the perfect early autumn weather. Over 15,000 people took advantage of the free entry to the conservatory display, an amazing increase on previous years.



The gardens were busy with activities spread throughout the gardens. The begonia and gardens displays were positively received by both locals and visitors to Ballarat. One highlight was the display of reindeer put together by the City of Ballarat apprentices. The reindeer have gone on tour and will be included in the Royal Horticultural Society display as will a small selection of the begonia collection at this year's Melbourne International Gardens and Flower show. This is fantastic recognition of the efforts of staff.

With large numbers of people and infrastructure on site I am always concerned about the impact on the lawns and gardens. Because the weather has been cool since the Begonia Festival weekend the gardens have bounced back quickly, even though it would be nice to see some autumn rain.

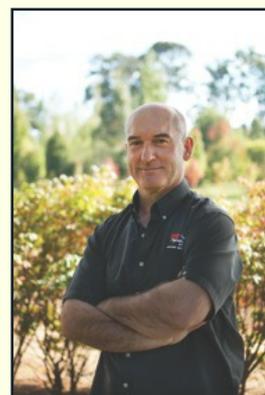
Peter Marquand

Chelsea Winner to speak at Buninyong's Annual Winter Lunch

Wes Fleming, the maestro who orchestrated the Best-in-Show Award winning Trailfinders Australian Garden at the 2013 Chelsea Flower Show, will be sharing some of his insights with local garden enthusiasts at Buninyong on Saturday 14 June.

Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens President, Anne King said that Wes Fleming is passionate about the social benefits of gardens and will be talking on the topic 'Beyond Chelsea – Connecting Gardens and Communities' at the annual winter lunch in the Buninyong Town Hall. "Wes will share his thoughts on creating a third place, away from home and work, that forms part of a person's identity and how that may affect their health and well being", Ms King added.

As a partner in the 'KinderGarden - Putting the Garden back into Kindergartens' project which involves local community kindergartens around Ballarat and Buninyong, he is working in collaboration with university researchers and the City of Ballarat evaluating the benefit of natural play environments and their impact on children's play, learning and development.



Wes Fleming –
"Garden Guru"!

Tickets for the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens fundraiser lunch with Wes Fleming can be requested via jbandamking@bigpond.com or 03 5341 8002. Further Information from Anne King, President, Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens, 0438 335470.



Speed bon- nie boat like a bird on a wing, On- ward the sai- lors cry;



With the current exhibition at the Art Gallery 'The Scots in Australia: First Fleet to Federation' we thought we might mention the impact the Scots had on the Ballarat Gardens.

Scottish benefactors such as Thomas Stoddart, James Russell Thompson and J.Y. McDonald are well known. Less well known are the grand speeches by such Scots as Colonial Minister of Public Works John Nimmo, a Scotsman and Mayor of Ballarat West who, with great pomp and circumstance, unveiled the Burns statue in Sturt Street in 1887 (with the Phoenix Foundry

Brass Band playing Burns egalitarian song 'A man's a man for a' that' and the Wallace statue by Percival Ball at the Botanical Gardens in 1889. Nimmo's speeches were reported verbatim in *The Argus*. You can now look this up on the website: www.trove.com.au.

Premier Duncan Gillies, a Scotsman and ex-Ballarat miner, opened the Statuary Pavilion on the 24 May 1889, with equally great pomp and circumstance.

Even David Ham MLC, who donated the lions at the entrance to the Gardens in 1893, was a Scotsman. Nurseryman Thomas Lang, who provided many plants including the Sequoiadendron gigantea (then known as Wellingtonia), was also a Scots migrant.

Today, you might see pipers in kilts pipe Scottish skirls on the foreshore, but it is a long time since we have been troubled by cabers being tossed about in these Gardens!

Lorraine Powell



FBBG PRODUCTS *

Red vest with FBBG monogram; various sizes available	\$40.00
Wide brimmed hat with FBBG monogram (Bottle green; sizes S/M or L/XL)	\$15.00
Bone China FBBG Mugs	\$8.00
* available from George Longley room or telephone Genevieve Lowe on 5342 9354.	

10% Discount on purchases by Friends from the Robert Clark Conservatory!

Did You Know?

The Friends have recently established a new sub-group:

"WESTERN
BEDDERS
GROUP"

YOU CAN BE A MEMBER AND HELP RE-ESTABLISH THE WESTERN BED. CONTACT BERYL PLUMMER C/O THE GEORGE LONGLEY BUILDING 5342 9354



BotaniKIDS—Educating Group:

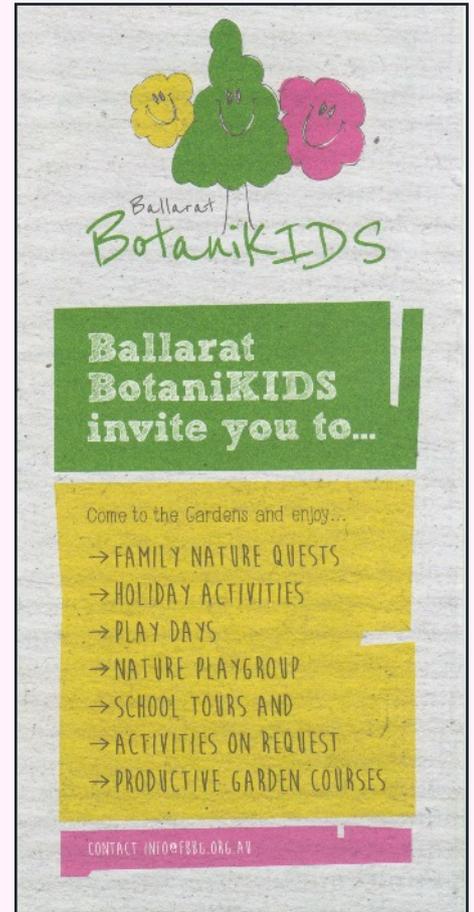
Kitchen Garden: A series of workshops was planned at the end of 2013 with Tanya Wiggins a lecturer in environmental education from Federation University. Six workshops were held for teachers, friends and members of the community. Up to 30 people attended. Topics covered included making kitchen gardens from scratch, wicking bedding, edible playscapes, vegetables and companion planting, soil and how it can be enriched and nourished as well as worm farming.

Pancake Day was a great success and great fun to do. As a goodwill gesture towards the staff and the Begonia Festival team we cooked over 100 pancakes with a selection of yummy toppings for morning tea. This was received very happily by the staff and everyone in fact, and I'm sure there was not much lunch eaten on that day! Pancake mix was donated by the local Pancake Parlour.

New Pamphlet: As you probably have seen we have a BotaniKIDS promotional pamphlet at last (see right). I am so glad it was done for the best ever Festival; many were distributed on the three days.

Begonia Festival: We actually worked with over 1000 children on Saturday alone with over 3000 children for the entire three days. We did not stop for the three days! Our merry band of helpers worked exceptionally hard for all the Festival and a few of us worked for the entire three days. We helped the many hundreds of families thread, tie, paint, draw and plant their baby begonias. We were so very thankful for the help of the Bunnings team who not only donated the 3000 terra cotta pots and the plants and potting mix. Bunnings also gave us three people to help us for each of the three days.

The feeling of goodwill, the weather, the lovely Gardens and our position, the general excellent behaviour of the children all combined to make a wonderfully happy experience. The Friends received some extremely positive comments and we all felt with a bit of tweaking here and there we will run with the same activity again in 2015 if the Begonia Festival team approve.



Teachers at workshop conducted as part of the Kitchen Garden SOS program early this year.



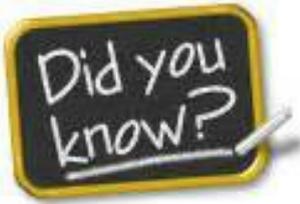
Wicking Beds: Thank to Peter Marquand for approving the keeping of five of the wicking beds from the Permaculture display at the Festival. The beds belong to the BCC and they kindly allowed BotaniKIDS to use them with the children who visit the Gardens working with us. We shall pick a selection of plants for sorting, perhaps cooking and replanting but as the wicking beds take minimal care with a weekly watering of a few minutes per bed I think they will enhance our program a lot. The beds will be reused at next year's Festival.

Children's GARDEN DAY: An Apple A Day (Autumn Fun in the Gardens) 3 April, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm. This day will run for invited booked schools and Kinders. ACU students will conduct activities with BotaniKIDS team as well as Grammar students helping us on the day.

Watch this space! Awaiting the promised Education person and Nature Playgroup! See you in June!

Julie Bradby Convener BotaniKIDS : Educating Group

(Editor's note: hopefully when you read this Julie will be travelling in Turkey and surrounding countries, plus the UK.)

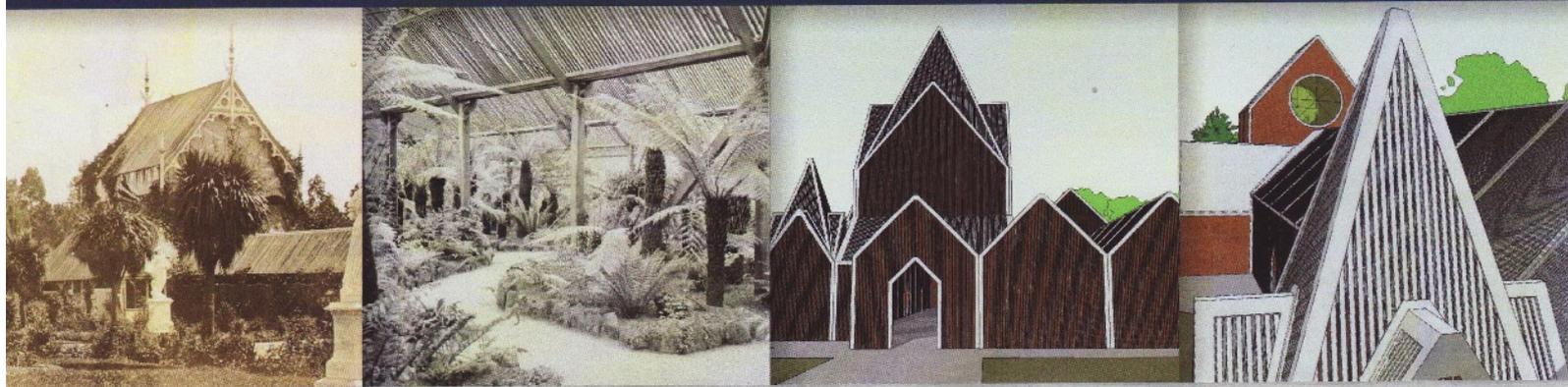


Members of the FBBG will be aware that after considerable discussion with staff of the City of Ballarat the previous Council endorsed a proposal to replace the now derelict fernery with a modern version of the original gothic style fernery. Concept plans and an interactive 3-D model have now been produced.

The FBBG will be playing a significant role in progressing this major project. We will have input into the: refining of the concept building, its functions, its contents and its usage. Most importantly, we will be involved in promoting and raising funds in support of the staged development of the project.

Your help and encouragement for this venture will be most valuable. Please use the form below, collect one from the George Longley Building, or contact a member of the FBBG Committee or Genevieve Lowe on 5342 9354.

THE FERNERY REDEVELOPMENT



Only *you* can make it happen!



The Ballarat Botanical Gardens Fernery is being restored. The new fernery will be a modern architectural representation of the original neo-gothic fernery building.

The Friends of the Botanical Gardens in partnership with the City of Ballarat, are seeking your support to help restore this iconic feature of the gardens.

If you would like to give funds to the fernery redevelopment project, please fill out the form below – no amount is too small.

Your financial contribution will benefit the Ballarat community both now and into the future.

Contact & Payment

Use block letters ONLY

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Donation

\$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Payment

Cheque or money orders

Make Payable to: Ballarat Botanical Gardens Trust

Send to: The Fernery Redevelopment Project
c/ City of Ballarat Finance department
PO Box 655
Ballarat Vic 3353

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive further information from the City of Ballarat and Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens



The Garden's fishpond transformed into a floral basket wonderland



Water, warm weather and children make a great mix



New President Mike Sorrell and Friends Patron Tim Enwistle

Pictured during the Friends AGM and the 2014 Begonia Festival



Tim Grace outlined the Fernery proposal



Joan Garner congratulates Elizabeth Gilfillan on her Life Membership of the Ballarat Friends at the recent AGM



Browsers amidst the many stalls at Begonia Festival



Elizabeth Gilfillan presents Yvonne Curbach with her Life Membership



Happy shoppers at the Begonia Festival

An Invitation from the Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens:

2014 AFBG National Conference, 8-10 August at the Mecure Gold Coast Resort.

Visit Friends or AFBG websites for Conference details and bookings:
www.friendsgcrbg.org.au OR www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

(further details available from George Longley Building)

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2014

Email: info@fbbg.org.au
 Website: www.fbbg.org.au

Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens Inc.
 P.O. Box 33W Ballarat West 3350

Tel. George Longley Building 03 5342 9354

Meetings and Events:

10 April	9:30am	Bus Trip (Mt Boninyong and Narmbool)
17 April	10am - 12noon	Special Morning Tea
22 May	10:00am	General Meeting (see below)
8 -10 August		Association of Friends Conf. Gold Coast
21 August	10:00 am	General Meeting (see below)
6 October		RMBG Art Exhibition (via V-line train)
16 October	10:00 am	'George Longley Day'
24 October	TBA	Spring Lunch & Events
25 - 26 October		Ballarat Open Gardens
27 October	TBA	Friends Bus Trip (more info next edition)
27 November		BBQ Xmas Meeting

MEETING TIMES 2014

Meetings are held in the George Longley Building
 (rear of the Robert Clark Centre):

Committee - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm
Growing Friends - Tuesday each week 1 pm-4 pm,
 and the 2nd Sunday each month, 1 pm-4 pm.
Plant Sales at the above times and 9 am -5 pm daily
 from the trolley outside the Conservatory.
Guiding Friends - 4th Tuesday each month 10 am.
History Group - 1st Tuesday each month 4 pm.
Educating Friends - 2nd Tuesday each month, 10 am.
Plant Labelling as required.

Early Notices:

17 April , FBBG Special Morning Tea: You are invited for morning tea! All members are invited as we welcome recently joined members to FBBG by hosting this April Morning Tea. Come along as two FBBG members share what they have experienced through their participation in the Friends. The FBBG Committee will be represented so come along and chat to the convenors of the subgroups of FBBG. We encourage all members to get involved in FBBG over 2014 and beyond. RSVP to info@fbbg.org.au

22 May , General Meeting: Speaker Anne Vale, author and lecturer in Australian Garden History, '*The Last of the Romantics*'.

21 August ,General Meeting: Terry Smyth, Curator of Asian Collection, RBGM Herbarium, '*My Visit to Xijiang*' (NW China).

2014 FBBG Committee Appointments

POSITION	NAME	POSITION	NAME
President	Mike Sorrell	History Convener	Lorraine Powell
Vice president	Vacant	Hospitality	Carole Haines/Diana Dunne
Secretary	Trish Twaits	Membership	Raoul Dixon
Treasurer	Bruce Holland	Merchandise	Helen Vincent
Past President	Elizabeth Gilfillan	Western Bed Convener	Beryl Plummer
Education Convener	Julie Bradby	Wellingtonia Editor	Michael Bird
Grants/Proposals	Glen Lake	General member	Kathleen Hobson
Growers Convener	Yvonne Curbach	General member	John King
Guides Convener	Terry O'Brien	Engraving Convener	Joy O'Brien (non Committee)



Photo credits: Thanks to Raoul Dixon, Lorraine Huddle, Terry O'Brien, Mike Sorrell, Helen Vincent, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Julie Bradby and Peter Marquand for organising photographs used throughout this edition.