

Wellingtonia



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PP Number 100020008

NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2019

'News from the President'



FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In an effort to provide an opportunity to engage with the **City of Ballarat**, all Councillors were invited to attend an informal discussion with the Committee on February 14. Unfortunately only Deputy Mayor Jim Rinaldi, Cr Grant Tillett and Terry Demeo were available. However several matters were discussed. Given the difficulty of getting all Councillors together at the one time, the Committee will consider trying a different format for future meetings.

This year's **Annual General Meeting** held on February 21 saw a few changes to the Committee membership:

- **John King** has stepped down as Vice President but still remains on the Committee as a General Member, and **Terry O'Brien** has agreed to take up the Vice President position. I thank Terry very much for being prepared to take on this most important succession planning role.
- **Susan Rattray** resigned as Secretary but continues on with the Growing Friends. Her dedication in carrying out a rather challenging role over the last three years is very much appreciated, thank you Susan for a job well done.
- **Susan Pilbeam** joins the Committee as Secretary, as well as retaining her other responsibilities of Administrative Assistant.
- **Sheree Murray**, who has just been appointed to the new position of Promotion and Public Relations Co-ordinator, also joins the Committee.

- **Nonnie Tennant** and **Beryl Plummer** did not stand for re-election and we thank them both for their time on the Committee.
- There were no nominations for the convenor's role of the **Western Beds Group** previously held by Beryl.

Our guest speaker, **Ian Shears** who is *Practice Lead, Urban Forestry and Green Infrastructure*, City of Melbourne, gave a most enlightening address covering many aspects of the focus on making our cities more liveable. Again, **Elizabeth Gilfillan** was able to draw on one of her many contacts, and we thank her for arranging a most interesting speaker.

The Begonia Festival over the week-end of March 9 and 10 followed on from the busy month of February. Although the weather was somewhat variable, overall the Festival was most successful. Congratulations to **Peter Marquand** and the gardening team for maintaining the gardens in top condition for the many thousands of visitors. The begonias consistently attract a huge amount of attention with long queues all week-end.

Takings from nursery sales and the plant creche amounted to \$7,781, which sets a new record. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated hard working group of Growers who achieved this excellent result. Congratulations to **Yvonne Curbach** and her team, who work tirelessly throughout the year.

The **BotaniKids** were again a big drawcard under the guidance of **Julie Bradby** and **Lorraine Powell**. Congratulations to both of them and the other volunteers who made this attraction a centre of continuous activity. The large amount of preparation work prior to the Festival certainly paid off.

Many thanks also to all the other volunteers who so willingly gave their time over the week-end to help make the Festival an enjoyable event.

Continues page 2...



Please think of **Botanikids** when cleaning out children's books from your bookshelves. Any books suitable for young children, involving plants, bugs, trees, etc., will be wonderful for a **children's nature library** in the Gatekeeper's Cottage. Julie Bradby



Patron of the Ballarat Friends:
Prof. Tim Entwisle,
Director and Chief Executive,
Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

See page 7 for new extracts
from Tim's Blog ...

Following the Festival a **meeting of all Convenors** of the various interest groups was held on March 19. This was a half day planning event which began with a review of the Begonia Festival activities and planning for next year. One issue raised was that the roster circulated during the AGM left quite a few gaps, which put undue pressure on those who did volunteer. Hopefully we will see a more complete roster for next year.

After the review, Convenors presented their plans and budgets for the year. The occasion also provided the opportunity for Sheree Murray to gain an understanding of the activities of the various interest groups. She will now commence working with all Groups to co-ordinate their promotional activities. Part of her role will also include working with the City of Ballarat in joint promotional and public relations events with the Friends. As this is a completely new role for the Friends it may take some time for her to develop the position to its full potential.

The highlight of a busy first quarter of the year, was the Launch of the **Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation** on March 27. The event was marked with a Dinner at *Pipers on the Lake*, with Guests being welcomed by a selection of numbers from the Ballarat Grammar School of Music. After the main course we were very privileged to be entertained by our special guest **David Hobson**, accompanied by pianist **Wendy**

Rechenberg. We thank David very much for taking time out from his heavily committed schedule, which helped make this a very memorable occasion.

It was also a pleasure to welcome our Patron **David Hawker**, Mayor Councillor **Samantha McIntosh** and C.E.O. **Justine Linley**.

Elizabeth Gilfillan is to be commended for her foresight, enthusiasm and dedication in establishing the Foundation. Many generous donors have already given to the Foundation, which is now recognised as a very significant support base for the continued development of the Gardens.

Thanks also to **Peter Wilson**, who not only acted as MC for the evening, but has very generously given his time in establishing the legalities of the Foundation. The assistance of other Board members **Mark Schultz** (Corporate Governance) and **Daina Macleod** (Accountant), is very much appreciated, as they have both generously given their time and added their expertise to the formation of the Foundation.

The next major event for this part of the year will be the commencement of the long awaited reconstruction of the **Fernery**.

I, for one, have a bottle of champagne ready to celebrate the occasion, and I suspect there could be quite a few others!

Robert Selkirk



Be on the look out for an announcement about an up-coming poll by the National Trust to discover the **TREE OF THE YEAR**. Voting between April 18 and May 19. Big local push for our splendid **Turkey Oak** to feature strongly in this vote.

An Open Letter to all those Friends who have a LITTLE Spare Time:

Dear Friends,

I am inviting each of you to join our Ambassadors Program, mainly because it is great fun, and I think that you are missing out on a good experience. The work place is beautiful, and the plants in the Conservatory put a smile on visitors' faces as they admire the botanical displays.

*What qualifications do you need? **None**. Just a friendly personality!*

You meet visitors from all over the world, from interstate, and locals. It involves two hours per month on a weekend, give or take according to your availability. Working in pairs adds to the enjoyable experience. A big benefit is getting to know other members of the Friends.

I look forward to your interest. If you would like more information, give me a ring.

Beth Dixon

Convenor Ambassadors 5335 9052



Do you have a
**"friendly
personality"**?



'A man should never plant a garden larger than his wife can take care of.'



GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP: Looking for a unique present for someone? An annual membership to the Friends of the Ballarat Gardens costs only \$25. We would like to increase our membership to 400. If your family and friends enjoy our Botanic Gardens, why not bring them closer to what they love? To buy a membership, visit www.fbbg.org.au or telephone 03 5342 9354.

GUIDING FRIENDS – FBBG

One of the 'irks' for the Guides is that we only run spring and autumn garden tours. In some ways it would be easier for our publicity to have Sunday morning tours advertised for all seasons (not the stop and start with autumn and spring) but that would need more Guides overall.

So, if you are reasonably fit, have an interest in the history of the Gardens AND would like to be a Guide please step forward! You will be made very welcome and be provided with extensive training in a friendly and supportive manner.



Boy it was a HOT day but still about 30 attended the PMs evening tour on Australia Day eve.

Part of the Guide's role is to make information accessible and educate the public. We have provided three pamphlets produced so far do this ('Significant Trees', 'Statues' and 'The Prime Ministers'). The PM brochure is currently being updated to add the latest sculptor and comments about PM Abbott and a brief mention of PMs Turnbull and Morrison whose busts are yet to be added to the collection.



Above and below: Part of the large crowd attending the evening tour about the statues in the Gardens



Interestingly, ex-'Pick-A-Box' champion and federal member of parliament, Barry Jones, made a private visit to the Gardens earlier this year. He provided extensive feedback to Terry O'Brien with respect to the Prime Ministers brochure. As a result of this exchange, the Guides are hoping to host Barry for a special afternoon gathering where he will talk about his contact with 20 PMs! Further information will be available soon but it will be on in June (Saturday afternoon).

The Guides latest project concerns gathering all the known material on the **Sequoias**. This is a work in progress and with many possibilities as to an end result. Comprehensive summary notes for both the Guides and Ambassadors is the first goal. Depending on our success and enthusiasm we may develop it into a brochure and/or a printed handout. We have also discussed having a special public event with speakers and film where we bring it all together for our interested community.

After the great success of the **evening tours** in January and February (the PMs and the Statues), there is also interest in having more specially themed tours. Two that have been suggested are the rejuvenated Western Bed and the many Special Trees in the Gardens.

We are hoping to conduct a **further U3A course** about the Botanical Gardens in 2020. These have been hugely successful in recent years with a break being taken in 2019.

Gardens tours have continued for various visiting groups under the capable guidance of Jane Monro, who must sometimes wonder why do some bookings require so much additional organisation once they have been set!



Above: the AAFBG stall at the recent Melbourne International Flower Show

The Guides are hoping to acquire a new sound system and some type of lightweight marker or flag to enhance their presentations.

Finally, during the recent Melbourne International Flower Show, many of our Guides participated by helping to run the information stall for our peak organisation (the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens). AAFBG membership currently consists of 59 Friends of Botanic Gardens groups from capital city, suburban and rural and regional botanic gardens and arboreta across the country.

Michael Bird for Terry O'Brien

AGM 2019

Our AGM was well attended and President Robert Selkirk had plenty to report, with developments in the *Fernery* restoration, *Gatekeepers Cottage* and the *Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation*. Volunteers were congratulated on the success of the initial *FBBG/Rotary* collaboration on the *Garden DesignFest*, with its resulting donation of \$5000 to the *Gatekeepers Cottage*.

Ian Shears (*Practice Leader, Urban Forest and Green Infrastructure, City of Melbourne*) gave a fascinating and inspirational presentation about how Local Government can respond to Climate Change and population growth and provide green spaces into the future.

His illustrated talk showed how Melbourne has changed since settlement and the need to nourish natural systems, not degrade them. He discussed the importance of tree canopy in keeping cities cool and the predictions of its loss over coming decades.

Ian has championed new approaches to urban water storage, the potential for roof top, vertical and laneway gardens as well as the importance of insect life in urban areas. He outlined innovative projects such as the *Birrarung Marr Flower Meadow*, the *Errol Street Park* (where streets were reclaimed in North Melbourne) and *Urban Agriculture* successes.

He spoke of *re-naturing* urban areas and showed some fascinating aerial images of change. His aim is "*to have a city in a forest, rather than a forest in a city*".

You might like to look at:

<https://2020vision.com.au/project/?id=156>

<https://greeningthewest.org.au/projects/birrarung-marr-wild-flower-meadow/>

Thanks to the Catering Team, who as usual, presented a delicious morning tea.

Susan Pilbeam



Above: President Robert Selkirk and Wellingtonia Editor Michael Bird talk to Guest Speaker Ian Shears.

Below: Catering Team: Doff Kemp, Heather Boyd and Helen Vincent - as always busy in the kitchen.



"When I'm tired and can't sleep, I count plants instead of sheep."

Wednesday, April 24 at 9 a.m.



**A guided tour of four beach side
Anglesea gardens: *Melba, Pickworth,
Sunnymeade* and a mystery garden***

Leaving Ballarat Botanical Gardens (*Moray Gates*)

Morning tea (provided) at Point Roadnight beach
Melba (Robin Boyd) and *Pickworth*
with guide Peter Shaw



BYO lunch on the lawn at *Sunnymeade*
Natural Landscape walk (optional)
Return to Ballarat 5 p.m.

\$65: Cash, cheque, credit or
eftpos: *George Longley Building*

Credit Cards:

<https://www.trybooking.com/474385>

**Sunnymeade and Peter Shaw were recently featured on
Gardening Australia*

Friends Committee Profile: John King talks to Susan Pilbeam

When we moved to Ballarat, being asked to join *FBBG* in 2013 was a great introduction. The opportunity to be part of a progressive, supportive group concerned about gardens was overwhelmingly positive. Little did I know what talented members I would discover!

Members' knowledge and devotion to caring and promoting the *BBG* is amazing. With nearly 400



members the *FBBG* has something for all to be part of and contribute to the exciting projects. The *Fernery Project*, which is now coming to eventual completion, demonstrates the perseverance of dedicated members.

Also the highly recognised work of the *BotaniKids* program, in promoting hands on introduction to children of the importance of gardens and the environment.

My love of gardens and the environment began as a boy, growing up in Northern Victoria, earning pocket money by doing gardening jobs for other farmers. All my family were keen gardeners, along with family friends. We even had a school garden and in those days we went on nature walks, as part of a subject called Nature Studies.

After training as a teacher in Melbourne, my early married life (married to Denise) in the 60's saw us take off to see the world.

Teaching in Scotland for two years we explored a different environment. I remember the rhododendrons lining the long driveway to a school I was teaching at, covered in snow and the beautiful wild primulas growing along the edges of burns. A visit to *Inverewe Garden* in

Western Ross, at the same latitude as Moscow, yet growing eucalypts thanks to the proximity of the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, is another fond memory.

Back teaching in Melbourne, with two young daughters, saw us build our first home in the beautiful Dandenongs and the chance to develop a garden from scratch. The steep sloping land and huge rocks were indeed a challenge – a native garden was the way to go.

In 1984 we moved to Canada for twelve months, temperatures down to minus 20°C and so warm in the summer that the corn crops were "as high as an elephant's eye" but the produce was exceptional.

Later we moved to Olinda to an established, but over-run garden with resident lyrebirds, abundant birdlife and tree ferns galore. I learnt that introduced sycamore trees were beautiful but had become a great pest to the natural vegetation. The blackwood tree in our garden was one to put on a heritage list.

The country was calling and with a love of old houses we moved to Camperdown in western Victoria to set up a bed and breakfast and of course establish a garden. We wanted to expand into a centre for garden weddings and established a flower garden with 500 roses, a vegetable garden, orchard and a berry patch, with enough berries for the guests' breakfasts. After 13 years we then moved to Ballarat, then to Buninyong on 6.6 hectares and of course the opportunity to establish another garden.

Three years later and after health issues, we are now living back in Ballarat and putting our own mark on yet another garden.

Gardens and gardening are indeed a journey. In my next life I am coming back as a landscape architect, as there is so much to do to enhance our environment and to address the issues facing us all!

Susan Pilbeam

Welcome: Sheree Murray



The new face popping up at meetings and at the George Longley Building belongs to our new Promotion and Public Relations Coordinator, **Sheree Murray**.

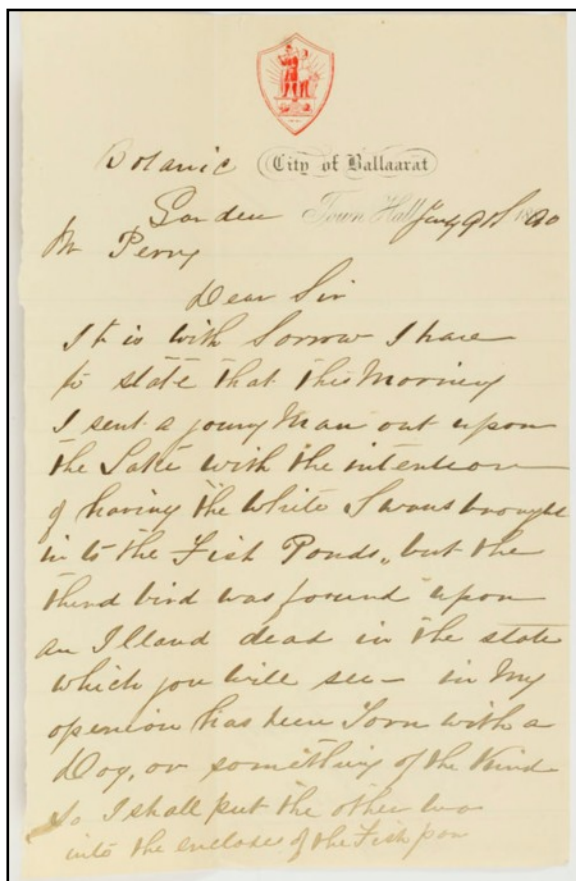
This new role has been created to promote the work of the Friends within the community, with Ballarat's visitors and to build a strong partnership with the City of Ballarat staff and Council.

Sheree comes with experience in the media industry and a passion for nature. She has been a keen participant of BotaniKids with her own young family for the past eighteen months.

Since joining the **Friends** team Sheree has assisted with the launch of the *Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation* and promoted the BotaniKids, with articles of both groups appearing in *The Ballarat Courier*.

As her role develops, Sheree will be utilising social media and other platforms to increase membership and participation in our programs. She is very keen to meet with our various interest groups in order to develop an understanding of their activities and events, and how she can contribute to their growth. Welcome Sheree!

FRIENDS HISTORY GROUP:



City of Ballarat
Town Hall
July 9th 1890

Botanic Garden

Mr Perry

Dear Sir

It is with sorry I have to state that this morning I sent a young man out upon the Lake with the intention of having the White Swans brought in to the Fish Ponds, but the third bird was found upon an island dead in the state which you will see - in my opinion has been torn with a dog, or something of the kind. So I will put the other two in to the enclosed Fish Pond.



Far left: letter to George Perry re the demise of a white swan possible due to a dog attack;

Centre: What the letter actually said;

Top right: the dog warning sign on the fernery early 1900s.

Reading the correspondence held in the **Public Record Office** is a wonderful way to set our Gardens in the context of their times, and discover what exercised the Council of the day with regard to their management.

In the 1880s a vexing problem was the unleashed hound!

Replying to a question from the Town Clerk of Castlemaine, George Perry (one of our long serving Town Clerks) responded that the Municipality had enacted a bylaw for the destruction of unsupervised dogs – AND *'..has provided the Gardens staff with the means to do so..'*

He also requested that *'Notices be placed prominently on the ferries'*, so probably people were travelling to the Gardens with their wandering hounds and needed reminding about standards of decorum.

Today's dog owning public is given the opportunity to exercise their pampered pooches in 'Off-Lead Parks' and presumably they are much better behaved!

Lorraine Powell CONVENOR History Group

Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation Launch

Friends who were present at the well-attended Foundation launch dinner have reported a wonderful, enjoyable evening. The dinner was a charming occasion to mark the establishment of the **Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation**.

Pipers restaurant looked resplendent and the meal was delectably generous. During the evening entertainment was provided by our special guest **David Hobson**, accompanied by pianist **Wendy Rechenberg**.

Sheree Murray
Promotion and Public Relations Co-ordinator
Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation

www.ballaratbotanicalgardensfoundation.com.au
1 Ascot St south
Ballarat VIC 3350



Pictured above: from the left John Hawker, Patron of the Foundation, Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation Board members Daina Macleod, Robert Selkirk, Mark Schultz, Elizabeth Gilfillan and Peter Wilson.

Photo generously supplied by Angela Hayward.

CURATOR'S REPORT AUTUMN 2019

Another Begonia Festival ticked off! Over sixty thousand people attended the festival over the three days. This year around twenty-six thousand people viewed the begonia display which this year also included a display of our non-tuberous begonia collection.



Above: Begonia display in the Conservatory.
Right: Pagodas on parade.

The display of Begonias was grown, curated and installed by the Gardens' team. The team was generously assisted by *Bells Water Gardens* (Campion Road, Newlyn North) with the installation of the central water feature.

Over the last several years the City of Ballarat horticultural apprentices have designed and installed a display to be part of the festival. This year the installation was a Japanese inspired garden on the Curator's lawn. The display included plants from our nursery, raked gravel and some rather stunning borrowed marble pagodas.



Peter Marquand, Gardens Curator

'Gardening requires a lot of water, most of it in the form of perspiration'

TIM'S BLOG:

Talking Plants, Boston Ivy

March 26, 2019

Popping and buzzing reveals tiny flowers in Asian grape an ivy. It's a grape (well, from the grape family, Vitaceae), from cliffs and rocky hillsides in Korea, Japan and China. So common names like Japanese Creeper or Japanese Ivy are more apt perhaps.

Still, it's widely grown in the US, and I've extracted some of the information below from Illinois Wildflowers site where it is widely grown. Illinois is a few states west of Boston, Massachusetts The genus name is Ancient Greek for 'virgin ivy', which is not to be confused with the common name Virginia Creeper, applied to another species of genus, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, with its 5-lobed leaves.

As I can now attest, it grows happily on brick or timber, preferring red brick to black-painted paling fence but more or less covering both. It attaches through short tendrils which develop suckers at their tips. <http://talkingplants.blogspot.com/2019/03/popping-and-buzzing-reveals-tiny.html>



Patron of the Ballarat Friends:
Prof. Tim Entwistle,
Director and Chief Executive,
Royal Botanic Gardens,
Melbourne



**Tours of Ballarat Botanical Gardens on
Sunday mornings in Autumn**

FREE!



**Every Sunday morning at 11 am
These continue to Sunday April 28**

**Meet at the Conservatory
No need to book – just turn up!**

IF YOU NEED TO PAY US SOME MONEY:

Please remember to identify yourself, when paying into our bank account and even **what the payment is for**. A good method is to use your surname and initial/s as your ID.*

Please **state what the payment is for**, e.g. membership, bus trip, etc.

The Friends' bank details are:
BSB 633 000 Acc. No. 125334615

*** make sure that you clearly identify yourself when making an electronic payment.**

CARE FOR THE RARE

Care for the Rare is a project run by the Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand's Victorian Branch.

In March the Ballarat Gardens hosted the BGANZ-Vic Executive Committee. Ballarat is one of six regional botanic gardens joining the pilot scheme. The project looks at the role of the gardens in native plant conservation.

Members of the Victorian committee of BGANZ's held an executive meeting here and visited the selected site. They also determined which species would best suit. A part of that event was the assessment of multiple sites for suitability of rare indigenous plant collections.

We are now working with BGANZ to create a collections plan for rare indigenous plants.



Above from left: - Peter Marquand (Curator Ballarat Gardens), Chris Russell (Executive Director RBGV-Cranbourne), John Arnott (Manager of Horticulture RBGV - Cranbourne), and Deputy Mayor - Councillor Jim Rinaldi.

Donna Thomas, Plant Collections Officer, Ballarat

'A rose by any other name still attracts aphids.'

DAHLIA COLLECTION

October 2018, saw a new **Dahlia Collection** planted in the Ballarat Gardens to the east of the Prime Ministers Walk.

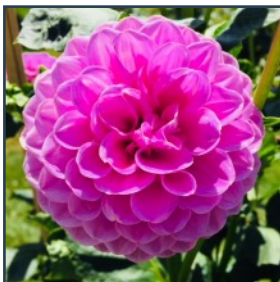
New garden beds were created and over 120 different cultivars were introduced. Now flowering, they come in all shapes, colours and sizes. Some reach over two metres tall.

It's hard not to love these vibrant treasures!

I would like to add "a big a thank-you" to **Joy O'Brien** for all her wonderful work with replacement labels in the sensory garden, plus brand new labels of the Ballarat Indigenous Plants in the Australia Garden prior to the Begonia Festival. She is such a quiet achiever – she deserves a lot of credit for what she does!



Above: Glen and Dan mulching the new Dahlia Collection in October 2018; below the new bedding area plus two beauties on display there.



Donna Thomas, Plant Collections Officer, Ballarat



THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 GENERAL MEETING (*):

The guest speaker will be our own Julie Bradby who will speak to the topic: 'From Little Things Big Things Grow'. Julie convenes the BotaniKids group, and has been the driving force behind acquiring and developing the Gatekeepers Cottage. (* Note change of date)

10 a.m. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre.

RSVP by Friday 17th May.

Tel. George Longley Building 03 5342 9354 – Email: info@fbbg.org.au

BOTANICAL ART GROUP

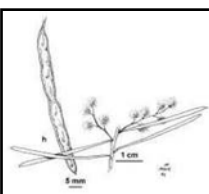
With 11 regular members the *Botanic Art Group* is embarking on a new project,. We are painting rare and endangered plants from the Ballarat area.



In co-operation with the *Ballarat Field Naturalists* and staff at the *Ballarat Botanical Gardens*, a list of 121 plants is being researched.

The final choices of subjects will depend on availability.

The botanical art group and Donna Thomas (Collections Officer) are very enthusiastic about this new project.



Two of the project plants: At the top are two views of comesperma polygaloides; below: acacia boormanii

Valerie Richards Convenor

MEMBERSHIP

REPORT:



The Friends are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined since the last issue of *Wellingtonia*:

Yvonne Joncour,	Roger Permezel,
Jeanette Smith,	Sophia Young,
Josee LaFreniere,	Sheree Murray,
Ron Forsyth,	Andrew Tennant,
Jan Warracke,	Peter & Lorraine Mistic,
Amanda Baldcock,	Frances Peterman,
Jennifer Poliness & family,	Nora Lynch,
Rachel Connell.	

Total Membership is currently 371.

However we still have a large number of members who **have not yet renewed** their membership for this year.

I would be delighted if these members would renew at the earliest opportunity to get my books in order.

If you are unsure if you have renewed or not, please contact me at 5335 9052 or email me at rdixon578@gmail.com.

Raoul Dixon – Membership Officer

NORTH GARDENS INDIGENOUS SCULPTURE PARK

The sculpture *Murrup Laarr* (Ancestral Stones) was unveiled on March 23 near the North Gardens wetlands. It is hoped to be the first of several sculptures as part of the **Resting Place Project**.



Murrup Laarr (Ancestral Stones)

Murrup Larr is the artwork of Wathawarung artist, Deanne Gilson. She developed the public artwork as part of her PhD. The standing stones create a space 14 metres in diameter and reference a Kulin nation lakeside corroboree in the 1850s, which was attended by miners and the local community.

The work also features a traditional hut (top right), decorated with the ochre handprints of the Gilson family, as well as several plaques.

Deanne said "Watharung people have always used stones to mark places of ceremony and important business. The stones are the holders of memory and knowledge, country and spirit. They follow the sun, marking the summer and winter solstice, important dates for planting and harvesting and telling stories of past, present and future."



This is a significant addition to the Botanical Gardens and tells the story of the traditional land owners.

Deanne hopes people will enjoy the site as a peaceful place of reflection. The opening included a *Welcome to Country* and *Smoking Ceremony*, followed by a corroboree (above).



(An edited co-contribution from Peter Marquand and Susan Pilbeam)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AD00cXr5MFA>

BOTANIKIDS

Activities: Australia Day Event : It's a Corker of a Day: 67 children attended with adult/s and carers visited the Cork then had fun using corks on our hats and as little rafts. Barefoot in the Gardens: 52 children with adults and carers, as we took off our shoes and enjoyed the feel of lush green grass and had an icy pole treat.

Begonia Festival: Children's Activities Program: **Plant a Bucket.** 3000 buckets planted, with an extra 500 plants in plastic pots and even paper bags, as we ran out of bucket early on Monday! Fantastic feedback and thank you to my team for the many hours in preparation and during the Festival. We have enormous fun working together and the hours really do fly over the three days!!!

Thank you too, to the Friends members who helped us, we do need you! Working, talking, planting, supporting, tidying and making sure those enthusiastic queues diminished. A wonderful experience to see all those happy children's faces as they planted their pansies in the decorated buckets. The Friends of the Gardens is all about promoting and engaging the community in making sure the future of our wonderful Botanical Gardens is assured. We engaged with thousands of young families at the Festival. It is this generation that will take on the baton.



Plant a bucket' at the Begonia Festival

This year we worked hard on using the Festival to showcase and promote the work of the Friends:

We sported new aprons with the FBBG and Botanikids logos, gave out Friends brochures and a postcard to each family, with logos and contact details. Also created, eight new, large posters with information about the Friends, The Cottage and Botanikids.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- City of Ballarat Children's Home Carers Group: 'It's a Bug's Life', anticipated 36 children
- Autumn Easter School Holiday Event, linked to Nature Week: Planting, nature walk, Easter Egg Hunt
- Heritage Week possible Opening of Gatekeepers Cottage: **The oldest newest building in the Gardens!**
- May Mothers Day: Flower power posies.
- Winter School Holidays: *Ships Ahoy!* The Explorers and the Oak trees in our Gardens.
- July: Tram Ride and Wetlands walk
- Spring School Holidays: Kids Botanical Art Event
- September: After school program: NatureLab: in Gatekeepers Cottage, max. 10 children with supervising carer or adult
- October Children Week: School event to include Tertiary students (Federation University)
- December: Olden Days Christmas Picnic: (Sovereign Hill FOSH Group and or Craft Cottage to assist)

School and Kindergarten visits continue, with the Botanikids Team providing resources and assistance. We are now a part of the newly formed alliance, with education officers at Art Gallery and Sovereign Hill, aimed at giving a wider focus to school visits in Ballarat.

Other programs will be family activities including drawing, colouring, discovering and reading and providing and maintaining kits in Conservatory and Cottage. These will be self regulated and supported by Federation University/ACU Education students, as part of their Community Projects program. A class set of stools for 'lessons' in the gardens and storage units on wheels are to be purchased.

We are certainly on the map in Ballarat and surrounds in educating children in the importance of our Gardens, plants, planting, the environment, outdoor play and learning. This year will be our biggest yet, with our dreams and visions for the future of education in the Gardens at last having a home.

Julie Bradby, Convenor

"God made rainy days so that gardeners could get the housework done."



*Would you like to take on
an evolving role for the Friends?*
Contact the Friends' Office **5342 9354**

BALLARAT GARDEN DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

- **Formosa Gardens Nursery** 5% off all stock
- **Grow Master** 5% off plant purchases excl. adv. Trees
- **Spot on Pots** 10% off all purchases.

You will need to show your FBBG membership card

GATEKEEPERS COTTAGE

How exciting to work with the Gatekeepers Cottage project group over the last year or so. Overseeing the project, Lorraine Powell, Robert Selkirk, Peter Marquand, Wendy Jacobs and myself, led by the skills of Michael O'Connell (City of Ballarat project officer). Builder Peter Broadbent is responsible for the operations on the site and now well into its real renovating, restoration and re-imagining phase!

The large deck with planter boxes, seating and a large table in the centre, will soon become a hive of Botanikids' activity. Exterior restoration of the verandahs, fretwork and painting is in accordance with heritage recommendations and guidelines. I am proposing timber shutters. The interior is nearing completion with painting about to begin. The furniture, including folding stools and tables and digital video equipment. New items for the kitchenette include a 'tree shaped' library shelf, kindly built by the CoB carpentry team. Vintage look down lights have been donated, with other lighting, heating and cooling installed by CoB.

We have had some beautiful floral art from our own Botanic Art group, donated for use on our cups and plates, which will be printed locally. We will need educational children's books on plants and animals of lakes and gardens. Please drop off donations at the George Longley Building.

The Cottage will be open during Heritage Weekend, May 25-26 and this may be appropriate for the official launch, so please keep this weekend in your diary.

All I can say now is watch this space, as the Gatekeepers Cottage evolves and creates a very special space for the Friends to educate, showcase and celebrate these wonderful Gardens with the wider community.

Julie Bradby, Gatekeepers Cottage Convener



Two views of the new deck

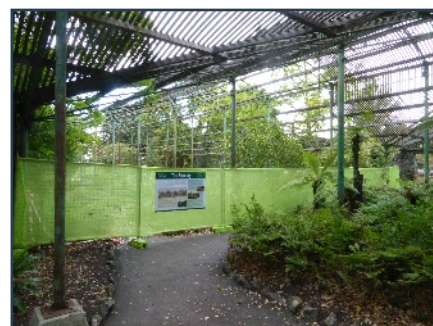


What a man needs in gardening is a cast-iron back, with a hinge in it. Anon.



'Garden Cuttings' by Green-Thumb

- Green Thumb has noted the major changes to the **Gatekeeper's Cottage**. The new deck is just one of the obvious changes taking place. Opening getting closer!
- On the other hand **the Fernery** is still a closed space. There has been talk that at issue is the 'footprint' of the building. Does Heritage Victoria want the original footings to be part of the restored structure? Might cause a few issues with the birch trees to the west.
- Have you been "haring around in the gardens"? A couple of people have commented to GT about the presence of **a wild hare** which has been seen racing across the lawns near the Prime Ministers Avenue.
- The **Western Bedders** are without a coordinator at the moment. Small group; not an excessive amount of time involved! Could be yours for the asking!
- Incidentally, there is still **a place for you** to become active within the **Friends' various sub-groups**. The Guides have increased in number and are always looking for fresh faces. Same too for the **BotaniKids, Growing Friends** and the **Ambassadors**.
- The **Guides' evening tours** along the Prime Ministers' Avenue and of the Statues in our Gardens back in January and February were very successful. The first followed an exceeding hot day, but still was well attended. The second tour attracted twice as many! Well done Terry and Guides. More of these to come in the future from all accounts.
- **City of Ballarat funding for the Wellingtonia** will continue until the end of this financial year in an important break-through in negotiations between the Friends and the CoB. Stayed tuned!
- Please check the amended dates for **May and August General meetings**. These are a week later than those in Summer edition of Wellingtonia. Gremlins!



Above: looking at the west end of the closed fernery; below: the old footings



Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2019

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COMMITTEE MEETING TIMES 2019

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

Committee - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm

Botanical Artists - Mondays 10 am - 3 pm during school terms.

Growing Friends - Tuesday each week 1 pm-4 pm, and the 2nd Sunday every month, 1 pm-4 pm. .

Guiding Friends - 4th Tuesday each month 10 am.

BotaniKids /Educating Friends - 2nd Tuesday each month 10 am

History Group - 1st Tuesday each month 4 pm.

Plant Labelling - as required.

WHAT'S COMING UP FOR THE BALLARAT FRIENDS IN 2019?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019	EXCURSION - Visit <i>Sunnymeade</i> the garden of Peter Shaw in Anglesea and also three other gardens including the <i>Melba</i> garden. Peter will join with us as we explore and visit these gardens in Anglesea.
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 (PLEASE NOTE THE AMENDED DATE)	GENERAL MEETING -. Speaker will be our member Julie Bradby. Topic: 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' . "A lighthearted talk about learning in a Botanical Garden setting and why it is similar to visiting a museum outdoors. In travels and journeys in other climes I seem to be forever drawn to gardens and parks and 'somehow' find myself collecting ideas and taking photos of various ways these gardens encourage curiosity and learning in their settings!"
JULY 18-19, 2019	SYDNEY – Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens AGM includes a guided visit to the National Plant Bank at Mt. Annan. (Details will follow in Autumn Wellingtonia or email.)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019	GENERAL MEETING - The Garden History Society of Victoria will talk about <i>Edna Walling's Bickleigh Vale Village</i> in Mooroolbark.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019	EXCURSION - A special excursion to visit the Edna Walling Gardens at Bickleigh Vale Village. NOTE – A very early start will be necessary! Further information in the Winter <i>Wellingtonia</i> Newsletter.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019	SPEAKERS' LUNCHEON IN SPRING . NOTE THE DATE - Friday, November 15.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019	Christmas Function - 5.30 p.m. Put this in your diary!

FRIENDS OF THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS - COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR 2019

The following were declared elected to Committee for 2019 at the recent AGM:

President: Robert Selkirk

Immediate Past President: Raoul Dixon

Vice President: Terry O'Brien

Secretary: Susan Pilbeam

Treasurer: Bruce Holland

General Committee: four positions are available on the Committee and these are held by:

Elizabeth Gilfillan

Stephanie de Boer

June Cheetham

John King

Convenors of the Friends' Groups are automatically on the Committee, these are:

Growing Friends: Yvonne Curbach

BotaniKids and Education: Julie Bradby

Events and Speakers: Carole Haines

Guides: Terry O'Brien

History: Lorraine Powell

Hospitality: Doff Kemp

Membership Officer: Raoul Dixon

Newsletter: Michael Bird

Promotion and Public Relations Co-ordinator: Sheree Murray

Western Beds: no nomination

The following Convenors are not required to attend Committee meetings; these are:

Ambassadors: Beth Dixon

Botanical Art: Valerie Richards

Engraving of Plant Labels: Joy O'Brien

This newsletter is produced and distributed with the generous financial assistance of the City of Ballarat.



Photo credits: Thanks to Vic Shelley, John Bentley, Peter Marquand, Donna Thomas, Sheree Murray, Tim Entwisle, Julie Bradby, Angela Hayward, Susan Pilbeam and Michael Bird for providing the photographs and illustrations used. Apologies for any omissions. Ed.

Disclaimer: The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens or those of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Neither the Friends nor the Ballarat Botanical Gardens accepts responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable and accurate information. **Contributions for Winter Wellingtonia 2019 are due by early June please.** Michael Bird, Editor.

Editorial Committee: Robert Selkirk, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Susan Pilbeam and Michael Bird.