

Wellingtonia



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PP Number 100020008

NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2019

'News from the President'



FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I reach the half way mark in my three year term as President, I think it's timely to take a step back and reflect on what's been achieved by all the volunteers over the last eighteen months, and take a look ahead at what opportunities might be opening up.

The Gate Keepers Cottage. After a very difficult and drawn out process, there is no doubt that those who have been involved in the journey of the relocation and restoration of the Cottage, will be very relieved to see its completion. In particular, I congratulate Julie Bradby and Lorraine Powell, together with all those who have had the passion and the long term vision to see the project reach fruition.

I also acknowledge the highly valued resources allocated by the City of Ballarat during the restoration process. The project control during this period was greatly appreciated, and a key factor leading to a successful outcome.

The **Ballarat Heritage Weekend** provided the ideal opportunity to showcase it to the public for the first time. Even though the fit-out is still work in progress, the opening was enjoyed by a constant flow of visitors. *A very historical day for the FBBG, and a very historical day for the Botanical Gardens.*

The Cottage now finally looks as if it has an owner. I think if there was a bedroom Julie would be moving in!

**A very
historical day
for the FBBG,
and a very
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Botanical
Gardens.**

Although the Cottage was gifted to the FBBG, because it sits on Crown Land a Licence Agreement between the City of Ballarat and the FBBG covering its use is required. This Agreement has been signed and has a currency of five years in line with the broader Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the FBBG.

Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation. Following the very successful Launch of the Foundation in March of this year, the Fund has now grown to almost \$200,000, thanks to many generous donors. At the request of some of the donors, the Foundation Board have agreed to contribute \$20,000 towards the fit-out of the Cottage.

At the initiative of Elizabeth Gilfillan the Board have also agreed to investigate a proposal to award an annual Scholarship to an apprentice employed in the Gardens. A discussion with the City of Ballarat will be held in the near future to establish the appropriate criteria and process for applications.

The Board continues to meet on a regular basis to advance other opportunities for support of the Botanical Gardens.

The Fernery. With the construction fence now in place we eagerly await demolition of the existing structure, which I was advised would commence immediately after the May quarterly meeting. With that timing in mind I took the opportunity at the end of the meeting to celebrate the occasion and share a glass of Champagne with those who attended the meeting, although some still preferred their cup of tea as midday hadn't arrived. I now have it on good

Continues page 2...

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS: GENERAL MEETING 22 August and EXCURSION TO BICKLEIGH VALE 13 October



A Further Request: 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 ...

authority that demolition will have occurred by the time you read this report!

A request has been made to meet with the City of Ballarat to pursue a discussion around the potential involvement of the FBBG and the Foundation in the new construction. We are hopeful of a date being fixed shortly. To give us some understanding of what might be involved in our commitment, Peter Marquand tabled plans of the Fernery at the June Committee Meeting.

The Memorandum of Understanding. This is a legal Agreement between the City of Ballarat and the FBBG and replaces the previous M.O.U. which expired in January. The current document will need to be reviewed in five years. As reported earlier in the year there were some issues related to the Agreement which needed to be resolved before signing. I'm happy to now report that those issues have been resolved, and the M.O.U. has been signed.

Succession Planning. At the Convenors meeting on the May 21 Julie Bradby tabled the concept of forming 'The Young Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens', which I think is an excellent idea and it has now been adopted by the Committee for further development. I have always believed that it is vital for every organisation to have a good succession plan if they are to survive.

Website and Logo Update. Another initiative discussed at the Convenors Meeting was the need to build a complete new Website and update the FBBG logo. It was considered that the current website is very outdated and it would be more cost effective to build a

whole new site, rather than simply update the current one.

However, it was generally agreed that the logo is basically sound and only requires a make-over.

Ballarat Specialist School. I have recently been approached by the Ballarat Specialist School enquiring about the opportunity for Horticultural students to gain work experience in the Gardens, and I thank Peter Marquand and Yvonne Curbach for being supportive of the concept. A meeting has since been held to develop a workable program which will involve eleven 18-year old students. I think this will provide a great opportunity for the students which will hopefully have the potential to lead onto full time employment.

Donation Box. As Members are probably aware by now the donation box in the Conservatory was recently vandalised after the Conservatory was broken into. Fortunately Brain Hay had cleared the box a few days earlier, so only a small amount of cash was stolen. The Committee is now investigating an alternative donation box, which will accept cash and also have a credit card reader. The card reader will have the ability to record the donor's amount on their bank account for a tax deduction.

In summary the Committee have been very busy in not only managing several events during the year, but they are also very focused on opportunities coming along in the latter part of the year. I thank them all for their dedication and commitment.

Robert Selkirk

Membership Report:

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



Kathryn Fowler, Madelene O'Halloran, John & Leanne Philp, Paul & Jennifer Bell, Margaret Leviston, Alistair Coutts, Janis Newlands, Judi Carpenter, Barbara Delmenico, Judy Haby, Bob Bromley, Sulochana Naiker, Daryl & Pauline Chester and Miriam Tonkin.

Total Membership is currently 376.

However we still have a many members who have not yet renewed for this year. I have contacted these members and have received some responses. Those who have not renewed will have to be reluctantly removed from my membership list.

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

GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP: Looking for a unique present for someone?

An annual membership to the Friends of the Ballarat Gardens costs only \$25.

If your family and friends enjoy our Botanic Gardens,
why not bring them closer to what they love?

To arrange a new membership:
visit www.fbbg.org.au or telephone 03 5342 9354.



**BECOME
A MEMBER**

THREE GUIDES WENT TRAVELLING!

1. HANOI FLOWER (Quang Ba) MARKET: Our early morning adventure to the flower market was a feast for the senses! The atmosphere was electric and buzzing with activity.

Even the 5 am arrival there after a night of little sleep, having come into Hanoi on the overnight train, did not detract from the excitement of the local life, the multitude of motorbikes and the array of beautiful flowers.



The flowers are valued and well cared for. The Moth-orchid flowers nestled amongst cotton wool to protect their delicate blooms; roses each with their little caps to keep their buds tight were packed tightly into cardboard containers to protect them.

We wandered the lanes with lots of ‘oohing’ and ‘aahing’, and our cameras snapping overtime.

There were all the flowers we recognise – gerberas, lilies, statice, hydrangeas, chrysanthemums, etc. Some were in bundles and other made into bouquets.

Motorbikes and pushbikes were loaded to hilt, setting off in all directions in the early morning taking these beautiful blooms to the city’s flower shops. **Sandi De Groot**



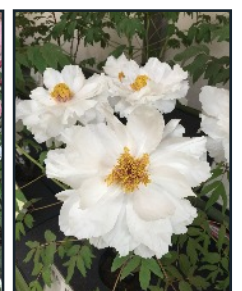
2. GARDENS OF JAPAN: Unique to Japan are its gardens and their response to nature. They are treasures of spiritual wealth with a character that values peace.

Japanese gardens often use a technique called “*shakui*” meaning borrowed scenery, which incorporates landscapes from nature such as mountains or rivers into their own composition. The design consists of three elements, (water, stone and plants) to reproduce natural scenery in a miniature form or living painting.



Outside Matsue in Shimane prefecture on the west coast reaching the Sea of Japan, lies Daikonshima Island famous for its history of growing Korean Gingseng.

Adachi Garden and Museum of Art. The garden depicts changing colours of seasons combining elements in separate examples - Dry Landscape Garden, the White Gravel and Pine, the Moss Garden, the Pond Garden and Waterfall Garden.

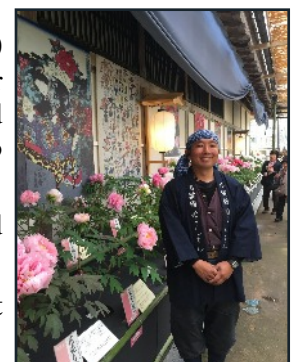


Yushien Garden is celebrated for its main attraction - Peony flowers. Established as a private garden in 1975 it features traditional landscape elements.

Additionally is a meticulously tended collection of 250 types of peonies which are cultivated to bloom all year round in dedicated indoor and outdoor displays, changed weekly. The herbaceous Japanese peonies are grafted onto a stronger Chinese peony.

This proud gardener was so pleased to share his art. I asked ‘What are the ingredients of the potting soil, lime, ..?’

His answer was a beaming smile! The secret remains at Yushien! **Elizabeth Gilfillan**



The Travellers' Tales continue on the next page:

3. CHRISTCHURCH BOTANICAL GARDENS: The gardens were founded in 1863 with the planting of an English oak tree, the Christchurch Botanic Gardens have grown from small beginnings to become a much-loved destination for locals and visitors alike.



Over the years natural wetlands and sand dunes have been transformed into an elegantly cultivated 21 hectare park with more than ten different gardens, framed by mature trees and expansive lawns, which are mostly contained within a loop of the Avon River.

Interestingly, the mature trees are allowed to be climbed! Children and adults are actually encouraged to do so. (*Julie Bradby would be thrilled! Ed.*)



If you enter from the city side of the gardens, next to the Canterbury Museum, you'll walk past annual bedding displays and across the archery lawn to the rose garden. Or, you can take the tractor train ride for an interesting overview of the gardens. (*John Garner would love it to come to BBG! Ed*)

For much of the year, the collection of modern and cultivar roses make this a colourful and fragrant place.



Adjacent to the rose garden is the New Zealand garden, which provides an introduction to native species. The conservatory complex displays everything from cacti and succulents to tropical orchids and carnivorous plants.

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens are open every day from 7 am and admission is free. The excellent Visitor Centre houses a gift shop with an array of locally sourced products, many with a botanical theme, as well as a café and a permanent interactive exhibition.



With more than 1.1 million visitors each year the Botanic Gardens are one of the Christchurch's most popular and well-loved attractions. Well worth a visit.

Michael Bird

4. LARNACH CASTLE HISTORIC GARDEN: The castle itself has an intriguing history including that the original owner/builder established the first Bank of NSW branch at Ararat (in a tent) in 1857.

The mock gothic style 'house' dominates the site which is adjacent to the southern Pacific Ocean on the end of the Otago Peninsula about 20 minutes drive from central Dunedin.

These gardens are well-tended and include rambling paths through hedges and trees and massed display plantings of rhododendrons and azaleas.



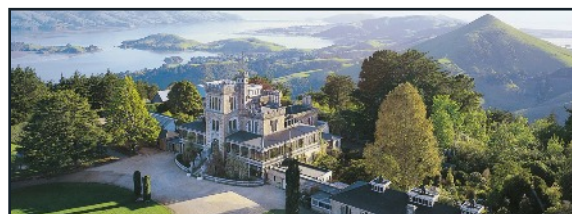
Today, the Castle is surrounded by seven acres of Gardens. The estate itself is bigger.

It is a unique collection of specialised gardens. For instance, there is a Patterned Garden, the Lost Rock Garden, the Serpentine Walk, the Rain Forest, the South Seas Garden, the Alice Lawn, and the Laburnum Arch and Green Room.

Very popular with visitors, the property has been extensively restored by the current owners who bought it on a whim.

It had fallen into a shocking state of disrepair and the house itself had become a cattle shed!

As well as being brilliantly located with wide vistas, the Larnach Gardens play host to many *Alice in Wonderland* links. (One of the first owner's children was called Alice). Since the 1930's the garden has featured statues of the Duchess and Knave of Hearts. More recently a bronze Alice statue and wooden Queen of Hearts throne have been added. A bit twee, but very endearing.



Michael Bird

'To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.'

WHAT'S ON AT THE FRIENDS?

FRIENDS COMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING 22 August, 2019

Guest speaker: LYNSEY POORE - Vice President of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria and volunteer guide and President of the South Melbourne Garden Club. Her career has involved science teaching, Laboratory Manager and demonstrating biology at Monash University.

Lynsey also volunteers at the Growing Friends and the Herbarium in Melbourne. She has travelled to many exciting places throughout the world taking a special interest in botanic gardens and the native flora. She is a frequent speaker on gardens and travel.

TOPIC - 'Centuries Old Botanic Gardens'

Oxford Botanic Garden - The oldest garden in Britain being founded in 1621 as a Physic garden for medicinal plants. This garden was the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's stories and also those of J R Tolkien.

Jardin Botanica-Historica La Concepcion in Malaga, Spain, is rated one of the best botanic gardens in Europe. It is a tropical paradise and is known for its extensive palm collection of 100 species.



Oxford Botanic Garden
& Arboretum
Est.1621



Botanic Garden in Malaga Spain

EXCURSION TO BICKLEIGH VALE - SUNDAY 13 OCTOBER, 2019

Important Notice

Meet at the Morey Gates at 8.00 am. Return approximately 5.00 pm.
Cost \$60 which includes entrance to 8 gardens.
BYO lunch. Refreshments provided.

Bickleigh Vale, Mooroolbark, was Edna Walling's vision for a model 'English style' Devonshire village, in the Victorian foothills.
(See page 6 for more on this fabulous location)

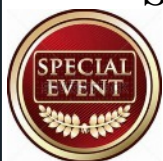
We will also be visiting the **Candlebark Community Nursery** where members will take us on a tour of the work volunteers do to grow indigenous species of the local area.



Tickets: **trybooking**: <https://www.trybooking.com/BDPMZ> or <https://www.trybooking.com/520181>

Some tickets allocated for Cheque/Cash purchase, George Longley Building, Tuesday 12-4pm.
Contact Susan: 5342 9354 or info@fbbg.org.au

SPEAKERS SPRING LUNCHEON - FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019



'New innovations and design for your garden'

Speakers: Len Isakov (Wild Seeds Garden Design),
Ben Harris (Ben Harris Gardens) and Sandra McMahon (Gardenscape Design)

Further information available at our August Meeting and in *Spring Wellingtonia*.

Bookings open on Tuesday 17 September: [trybooking.com](https://www.trybooking.com)
Contact Susan 5342 9354 or Carole 0458 533881

BALLARAT FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING May 2019

Another well attended event conducted by President Robert who reported that the meeting coincided with the start of the long-awaited Fernery reconstruction! Amongst his report items Robert mentioned the signing of the new five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Ballarat (CoB). This has been a long process and he was glad to see it completed.

A further 'drawn-out' matter very close to completion is the Gatekeepers Cottage; Robert indicated it would be open for Heritage Weekend, and that an official opening date would be announced soon.

Elizabeth Gilfillan reported on the early days of the recently launched Gardens Foundation. Close to \$200,000 has been received to date (this includes monies transferred from the old scheme which had been under the control of the CoB).

Robert finished his part of the proceedings by presenting Elizabeth with a floral tribute to recognise her role as Secretary of the Australian Association of Friends of Botanical Gardens. She has recently stood down from this position.

The meeting's speaker was Friends stalwart, Julie Bradby. Julie is best known for her passionate work with the Ballarat BotaniKids, and more recently the acquisition of the gatekeeper's cottage which will become a base for her program.

Julie's theme was "*Botanic Gardens – Places to Learn*". In fact she prefaced her talk by declaring that she believes that botanical gardens are 'places to go to enjoy ourselves plus being places to learn'. Julie explained that after teaching at the nearby Pleasant Street Primary

School she came into regular contact with the Ballarat gardens. A book called "*Last Child in the Woods*" (*) was a major influence on Julie's decision to do something about getting children (and their parents) involved in the outdoors, nature and the gardens. This led to the establishment of the Friends Education Group in 2008, and which quickly evolved into the BotaniKids program we now have.

Julie was adamant that kids today do not climb enough trees today! She pointed out that children need to get more experience to help them in risk-taking activities such as tree climbing.

In conclusion we were given a whirlwind tour and overview of the educational aspects of botanical gardens around the world: Kew in England, Singapore, Edinburgh, Aarhus in Denmark and the National Botanical Gardens in Dublin.

Michael Bird

Julie (right) joined a rep from Collins Books in the choice of books for the Cottage



John is the 'king' of drink waiters at Friends' Events

(* '*Last Child in the Woods, Saving Our Children from Nature-deficit Order*', by Richard Louv)

'Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.'

THE FABULOUS EDNA WALLING AND BICKLEIGH VALE

Edna Walling was Australia's greatest garden designer from the 1920s-1950s. Born in England, she studied at Burnley Horticultural College and was influenced by the **Arts and Crafts movement**, the work of Gertrude Jekyll, architect Royal Barry Wills and writer Lewis Mumford.

Her landscape design practice focused on Victoria and our Friends have visited Mawallock, one of her many Western District gardens. Other Victorian gardens include Cruden Farm and several in the Macedon and Dandenong Ranges.



Walling's Philosophy: Walling had a number of principles which she applied to her designs. She created garden "rooms" and felt the bare bones of the design should be visible in winter. She emphasised foliage and texture, believing the most important colour is green.

She planted trees in copses and allowed ground covers to take over, wanting gardens to grow naturally and only pruned when necessary. She blended native and exotic plants in repeat plantings and maintained gardens should be mulched and not over-watered.

Bickleigh Vale: Her greatest achievement is Bickleigh Vale in Mooroolbark, where she designed both the gardens and houses and lived for many years.

In 1978 the National Trust declared the village a "Classified" Landscape and in 1988 Devon Lane was renamed Edna Walling Lane in recognition of her contribution to Australian landscape design.

In 2005 it was included on the Victorian Heritage Register as a historical landscape of horticultural and architectural significance.

Bickleigh Vale Village looks very different today, to photos from the 1930's-40's.

The trees have matured, there are now 30 cottages and each property has developed its own character, yet staying true to Walling's vision of privacy and peacefulness.

Residents work to maintain the spirit of Edna Walling and when they replant today, it is with reference to her writings. She considered it most beautiful in Spring and Autumn. The challenge for owners as caretakers is to maintain the gardens in changing conditions. Many ancient trees are stressed and senescent and there is the issue of 'weeds versus heritage', as many of Walling's favourite plants are now on the weed list.

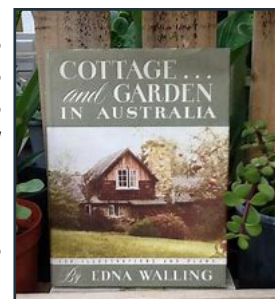
Other concerns are succession planting and maintaining roadside vegetation. This year residents planted over 500 trees, shrubs, ground covers and bulbs, their aim to preserve the environmental vision of Edna Walling and her Heritage Village – which is the only one of its kind - for future generations.

The Friends have a trip organised to visit Bickleigh Vale.

(SEE PAGE 5)

Susan Pilbeam

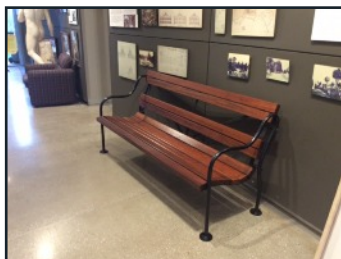
Sources: Australian Open Gardens, Gardening Australia,
<https://www.bickleighvalevillage.com.au/>



CURATOR'S REPORT AUTUMN 2019

In 1872 forty-eight garden seats were purchased for the Botanical Gardens, recently one of those was returned to the gardens. The style of seats can be seen in the photographs located in the Robert Clark Centre.

The returned seat had been in the possession of a local Wendouree resident who contacted me late last year asking if we would like the seat back. After restoration of the frame and replacement of timbers the seat is currently located in the passage way of the Robert Clark Centre.



The Conservatory winter display and annual Craft Council of Ballarat exhibition opened to the public on the Queens Birthday weekend. Ballarat Craft Council's



exhibition is always a popular and well attended event in the gardens calendar.

This year's Conservatory winter display includes cyclamen, cinerarias and trees from the gardens nursery collection.



Permits have finally been issued by Heritage Victoria for the demolition of the current fernery. Demolition works are expected to be completed by the end of June.

Stage one of the reconstruction of the gothic fernery is due to start early in the new financial year.

Peter Marquand, Gardens Curator

AMBASSADORS: Why don't you beat the winter chill by spending some time in the Ballarat Conservatory, where you can look at the new display of cyclamens, primulas and cinerarias. Sit and soak up the sight of beautiful plants, and enjoy the views of the gardens. Spend some quiet time. It does us good!

The Ambassadors will be in recess over the months of July and August, having a well earned rest.

Beth Dixon Convenor Ambassadors' Group

Ambassadors

Talking Plants... every plant has a story to tell

April 30, 2019

We see-saw the Saw Banksia

talkingplants.blogspot.com

Banksia artist extraordinaire, Celia Rosser, says the Saw (or Old Man) Banksia, *Banksia serrata*, is her favourite. Which is saying a lot, given she has painted the 77 non-dryandroid banksias and has one species (*Banksia rosserae*) named after her.

From Wilsons Promontory, or thereabouts, the **Saw Banksia** grows naturally right up the east coast to southern Queensland. They also occur on Flinders Island, and at Rocky Cape on the very northern coast of 'mainland' Tasmania.

There are three other tree banksias in Victoria. The **Coastal Banksia** (*Banksia integrifolia*) extends a little further westward to Port Phillip Bay (with one isolated occurrence at Lower Glenelg River further west) and then also up the coast into Queensland. **Silver Banksia** (*Banksia marginata*) is scattered across the Victoria and into neighbouring states, including Tasmania (and ACT), while **Rock Banksia** (*Banksia saxicola*) is only found in the Grampians and Wilsons Promontory. All four grow at Wilsons Promontory.



Most famously, the species grows around Botany Bay, where Sir Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander gathered it in April 1770.

Later these specimens were used by Carl Linnaeus 'The Younger' (son of Carl Linnaeus who established the biological naming system we use today), to name and describe *Banksia serrata*, and three others species gathered from Botany Bay, in the genus named after Sir Joseph.

From her home and gallery in Fish Creek, as I admired prints and originals of her exquisite renditions of this genus, Celia was telling my wife Lynda about missing her walks through *Banksia serrata* woodland.

(Read more at Tim's Blog...talkingplants.blogspot.com)

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



CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS – UPDATE

Stiff Groundsel - *Senecio behrianus*

Did you know that the Miners Rest Wetlands is home to a rare and endangered plant called the **Stiff Groundsel** (*Senecio behrianus*)?



The Stiff Groundsel is the focus of our most recent conservation project and includes exploring propagation methods, monitoring the plant size and water preferences, seed collection for the Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens Seedbank, and creating a back-up population in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Australia Garden.

This rhizomatous, wetland plant was once very widespread on flood plains throughout the entire Murray Darling System in Victoria, South Australia and NSW.

Then from the 1890's, it was believed to be extinct! It was rediscovered in 1991 in Corop (north central Victoria) surviving as just four plants!

That was until a fifth plant was discovered in the Miners Rest Wetlands in 2004! There are still only five naturally occurring plant populations known.

In a terrific multi-team effort, this project also includes the City of Ballarat 'Trails and Waterways' team, plus Roger Thomas from the Ballarat Community Indigenous Nursery.

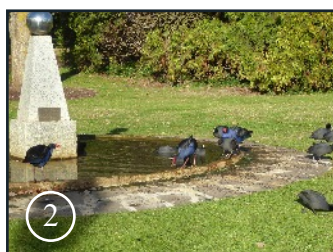
Photos: Donna Thomas

Donna Thomas, Plant Collections Officer, Ballarat



Wise words: "You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice."

RECENT BIRD SIGHTINGS IN THE BALLARAT GARDENS:



You can probably name the three bird species which are commonly seen in the Gardens and shown in pictures 1 and 2, but what about picture 3?

If you said a 'hawk' you would be close. It is one of several hawk kites to deter birds which are causing a few problems with the sequoias.

GROWING FRIENDS:

The Growing Friends work very hard every Tuesday afternoon. Plants still selling well even though it is cold and wet. As a result we have had to order more plants to keep our stock up.

The new canopy above workbench in the potting area looks great but unfortunately is too high and does not protect us from the rain or drizzle. We are also hoping that something can be done about the leakage into glasshouse and that the glasshouse heating be checked. Susan would like to propagate there during winter and it has been a few years since it was last used.



The new canopy in the potting area

Yvonne Curbach, Convenor

An annual Ballarat Friend's Membership costs a mere \$25 for an individual. Might just be the perfect present!



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.**

"You're never too old to learn something stupid."



'The Case of the Missing Hyacinths'

*Ballarat Botanical Gardens scandal - August 1901!!
Council informed! Police called in!!
Reward offered!!*



Mr. Rooney, head gardener, South Section, estimates the damage done at about 15/-! (For 'young Friends: that's 15 shillings or in dollars \$1.50. Ed.)

On inspection of the crime scene, Constables Armstrong and Nicholson identify the tracks of a woman's boots in the flower bed, and on making inquiries identify the culprit as a Mrs Hewitt, the wife of the manager of Hurst's Boot Palace in Bridge Street.

Both Mrs. Hewitt and her nursemaid deny involvement in the theft of *hyacinth* bulbs, however when the Constables appear at the back gate, confessions ensue. Mr Hewitt, humiliated, writes to the Mayor:

'... very much regret....absolute foolishness...What mad freak prompted the women to remove the bulbs I do not know. We are in a fairly good position and well connected...I wish to appeal to you...only too willing to reimburse...apologising fully and frankly...I shall wait in the City Hall...'

Money changed hands and the matter was dropped.

By the way, the informer did receive the reward of £3. (\$6 young Friends!)

Lorraine Powell, History Convenor (from research undertaken by others into *Nursemaids of Ballarat*)

'...From The Archives!'

War does not determine who is right, only who is left.

FRIENDS GUIDES SPECIAL EVENT: THE PMs and BARRY JONES!

Barry Jones, teacher, writer, lawyer, social activist, quiz champion and former ALP federal politician! An amazing career, and an excellent guest speaker.

Barry was a special guest of the Ballarat Friends Guides for a Saturday afternoon 'one-off talk' on the topic of the Prime Ministers that he had known.

Before a packed house Barry provided an excellent talk about Ballarat's important collection of prime ministerial busts. He emphasised how he had written a letter critical of material in the Friends Prime Ministers Avenue brochure. As one direct response to his feedback, the specific set of brochures has since been pulped, and an amended version put into circulation. Another response was that Guides Convenor Terry O'Brien instigated a plan to use Barry's contact to help publicise the Gardens. This could be the first of a series of such afternoon gatherings.

Barry held a rapt audience in the palm of his hand. It was a first class speech delivered in an exemplary fashion. His personal glimpses of how the various recent PMs operated was fascinating. Many present wanted the session to go longer, and would have liked Barry to expand on his thoughts – especially on the state of the current political scene in Australia.



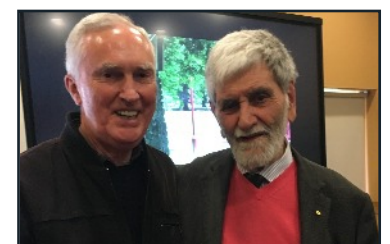
Guides convenor Terry O'Brien welcoming the audience



A large number of floral tributes for Bob Hawke

A special part of the day was the introduction of Barry to the audience by our own Tim Sandiford. Tim was a student of Barry's at Dandenong High School way back in the last century! It was really a pleasure to hear what Tim had to say. A great local link to one of Australia's living treasures!

Significantly, Barry's visit came just weeks after the death of Bob Hawke, Australia's longest serving Labor Prime Minister. As has become a tradition now, in the weeks following Bob's passing many floral tributes were laid at the Hawke bust plinth in the gardens.



Tim Sandiford and Barry Jones after the presentation

Michael Bird

Very wise words: *'Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.'*

Ambassadors

*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

BOTANIKIDS AND THE GATEKEEPER'S COTTAGE

What a great privilege to be given the opportunity to now have a home base!

The Cottage has been opened by our team on three occasions. The Heritage Open Weekend was a huge success with hundreds visiting. Thank you to the Friends who gave their time to be stewards as we did need at least three people on at a time.

What a Change! The magnitude of difference to our program is yet to be realised but already we are feeling quite at home. The team have had a small in house 'bring a friend' afternoon tea to celebrate our good fortune. We invited City of Ballarat Events leader for the Begonia Festival Claudia Lengfelder and discussed the future of the Festival and our role.



'Bring a Friend' afternoon tea, left to right: Julie Bradby, Heather Boyd, Carole Haines and Claudia Lengfelder from CoB Events Team

Goings On: Ballarat West Rotarians who have generously funded Botanikids programs (\$7000 last year) have requested they have an opportunity to view the Cottage. An afternoon tea will be arranged.



The very first reading group hard at work in the cottage

We have already started to run a much-revised and quite different **Botanikids** program.

Two sessions were scheduled recently. The first involved CoB home carers groups.

The second over fifty Grade 3 students from Pleasant Street PS who came to work with us for the Ballarat **Foto Biennale**. The students planted seedlings into 'found and discarded objects'.



These have been placed under the Druid's oak behind the Craft Cottage, and will form the basis for photo montages to be displayed in the Conservatory during the Biennale.



Official Opening Ceremony of Cottage: This is to be finalised but is likely to be mid to late September. This will give us time to prepare a guest list, to display names of key donors and supporters, as well as hopefully to have a small booklet published and operational interpretive material on display. In the meantime we will endeavour to open the Cottage when we can on a Sunday for a few hours.

What's Next?: Semi-fixed cupboards with shelving have been planned in designated storage rooms. We are liaising with the Ballarat Gardens Foundation to organise a consultant to help us with interpretative displays that have maximum impact within a compact heritage space.

A decision about window furnishings such as shutters and blinds has been put off for the moment..



A mid-year school holiday program **may** take place depending on help available.

Meanwhile we will be working on producing a simple flyer/poster to explain the intended use of the Cottage and outline the interpretational nature of displays with samples and photos.

Julie Bradby, Botanikids Team

Above top: Four photos showing the Pleasant Street students and their work; **above,** two photos showing the sizeable deck at the rear of the cottage; **bottom left,** the first home care group working on their projects.

ANGLESEA BUS TRIP REPORT:

Gardening in a coastal environment is always a challenge and on our autumn bus trip, members appreciated some innovative design and planting responses.

We met our guide Peter Shaw of **Ocean Road Landscaping**, over our beachside morning tea at Point Roadnight. It was a glorious day and members wandered cliffside walks and quiet streets, exploring five gardens that Peter has designed and his company maintains. As most of his clients have holiday homes, they require low maintenance, low water gardens, to be enjoyed by the whole family, year round.

The Anglesea heath and bush influences native plant selection, but Peter also uses succulents and other tough exotics. Of particular interest to many was the Robin Boyd designed *Melba*, with its wonderful ocean views and secluded feel. The stonework outdoor shower and fire-pit are appealing features, set amongst established native shrubs.

Other gardens focused on limited plant selections of clipped shrubs, grasses and ground covers, with striking contemporary sculptures. Some were steeply sloping sites, others dominated by established



Peter Shaw engages with members over lunch at his garden

Eucalypts, most were contemporary homes, built since the Ash Wednesday fires.

We had our picnic lunch in Peter's garden, *Sunnymeade*, which was recently featured on *Gardening Australia*. Its mounded lawn and meandering paths were a delight. A family home, the garden has a flying fox, tree house and range of sculptures.

Thanks to Central Highlands Water for donating drink containers, Carole Haines for organising the trip and Heather Boyd and the catering team for the delicious biscuits. **Susan Pilbeam**



Use of contemporary sculpture in Peter's designs



View of Point Roadnight, near *Melba*



'Garden Cuttings' by Green-Thumb

- You probably have noticed the **new fencing closing off the Fernery** before its demolition. One holdup has now been resolved. Heritage Victoria wanted 30 mm gaps between the slats on the new exterior. At the Ballarat end this was considered to mean it would be too dark; 60 mm gaps have now been approved. Demolition is planned to be done by June 30 with re-construction soon after. Watch that space though!
- Sydney BG first; Ballarat BG second!** Did you know that we will be only the second BG in Australia to use the IrisBG database system. IrisBG is *"a complete database and software solution to manage your botanical collection....used around the world. It manages a comprehensive set of botanical collection data, including plant history and related information!"* The Garden Explorer module makes a collection available to visitors and can be accessed by the public using a web browser on a Smartphone, tablet computer or PC. It can also be used as a kiosk-solution in the garden.
- GT thinks you all know about the **break-in to the Conservatory** back in April and the subsequent wrecking of our donation box (see President Robert's report). The smashed Perspex box is outside the George Longley Room on the veranda. (Photo at right)
- How's your maths? The Friends have a stated aim to increase our membership to 400 by the end of this year. On page 2 you would have seen the current financial membership is 376. We have in excess of 30 members who are not financial! **376 + 30 exceeds 400!** Boy! What can I say?
- Green Thumb thinks the approach by the **Ballarat Specialist School** to have some of its students participate in a Gardens based horticultural program is an excellent idea and one which we all should support.
- Congratulations must go to **Elizabeth Gilfillan** for her sterling work as Secretary/Public Officer for the Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFGB)! Member for over 12 years and Secretary for six of those! Well done Elizabeth. Ballarat has been represented continuously for 28 years since inception, hopefully Ballarat can continue the tradition. Nominations welcome!



The wrecked Friends' Donation Box

until next time...Green Thumb

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2019

Email: info@fbbg.org.au
 Website: www.fbbg.org.au
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsBBG>

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 P.O. Box 33W Ballarat West 3350
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Tel. George Longley Building 03 5342 9354

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.

Plant Sales at the above times.

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.

DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING EDITION 2019 IS
 20 SEPTEMBER 2019. Submit articles to the Editor
info@fbbg.org.au

2019 FBBG COMMITTEE AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

POSITION	NAME
President	Robert Selkirk
Vice President	Terry O'Brien
Past President	Raoul Dixon
Secretary	Susan Pilbeam
Treasurer	Bruce Holland
BotaniKids/ Education	Julie Bradby
Events and Speakers	Carole Haines
Foundation	Elizabeth Gilfillan
General member	Susan Rattray
General member	Stephanie de Boer
General member	June Cheetham
General member	John King
Growing Friends	Yvonne Curbach
Guides	Terry O'Brien
History	Lorraine Powell
Hospitality	Doff Kemp
Membership	Raoul Dixon
Newsletter Editor	Michael Bird
Promotion/Public Relations	Sheree Murray
Western Bed	Vacant
Ambassadors	Beth Dixon (non-Committee)
Botanical Art	Valerie Richards (non-Comm.)
Engraving Plant Labels	Joy O'Brien (non-Committee)

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

JULY 18-19	SYDNEY – Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens AGMAGM Friday 19 July at Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney. Keynote speaker CEO Melissa Ellis plus tour of RBGS. All welcome to attend. RSVP info@friendsbotanicgardens.org
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22	GENERAL MEETING - Guest speaker: LYNSEY POORE - Vice President of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. TOPIC - 'Centuries Old Botanic Gardens' in particular, the Oxford Botanic Garden (UK) and the Jardin Botanica-Historica La Conception in Malaga, Spain
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13	MELBOURNE EXCURSION - A special excursion to visit the Edna Walling Gardens at Bickleigh Vale Village. NOTE – A very early start will be necessary! Eight gardens plus a nursery visit included. BYO lunch. Further information on page 5 plus Edna Walling story on page 6.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15	SPEAKERS' LUNCHEON IN SPRING . 'New innovations and design for your garden' (see p.5) More information in the next edition.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21	Christmas Function - 5.30 p.m. Put this in your diary! More information in the next edition.

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Photo credits: Thanks to: Elizabeth Gilfillan, Peter Marquand, Donna Thomas, Raoul Dixon, Tim Entwisle, Wendy Sandiford, Julie Bradby, Susan Pilbeam, Margaret 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. The Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens does not accept responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable and accurate information.
Contributions for Spring Wellingtonia 2019 are due by September 20 please. Michael Bird, Editor.
Editorial Committee: Robert Selkirk, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Susan Pilbeam and Michael Bird.