

# Wellingtonia



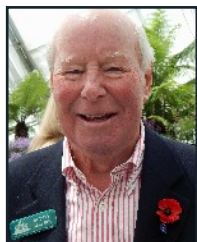
ABN 32 346 573 092 ACN 3465 info@fbbg.org.au www.fbbg.org.au

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

PP Number 100020008

## NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2018-9

### 'News from the President'



### FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With 2018 being my first year as President, and also my first year as a member of the FBBG, it's been a challenging and rewarding one settling into the role and getting to know the Friends. I feel the year began wearing "L Plates" and finished wearing "P Plates".

However, on reflection over the last 12 months I think it's very heartening to see that the **Fernery** is now under contract, the restoration of the **Gate Keepers Cottage** is due for completion by Easter 2019, and the **Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation** has been established.

The existing funds held in Trust by the City have now been transferred to the newly formed Foundation. Monies collected from the donation box in the Conservatory will from now on be deposited into the newly opened Foundation account. **Brian Hay** has kindly offered to take charge of managing the donation box, and the sign on the box has been updated to confirm that donations will go towards the Foundation.

I take this opportunity to thank the **City of Ballarat** for their co-operation and understanding of our need to establish the new Foundation. I also pay tribute to **Elizabeth Gilfillan** for her passion and commitment to the Foundation.

I wish to acknowledge the financial support given by the City of Ballarat in the restoration of the **Gate Keeper's Cottage**. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

To achieve the above, several meetings have been held with the City during the year, which have been constructive and I believe have helped to achieve a better understanding between the FBBG and the City.

One of the highlights in the latter part of the year was **GardenDesignFest** held over the week-end of November 10 and 11. This event was very organised by the Rotary Clubs of Kew, North Brighton and Central Melbourne, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Ballarat West. A total of five gardens were opened in the Ballarat-Buninyong region. All differed in their appeal with the highlight being Lal Lal Estate.

Many thanks to those Rotarians involved, particularly **Lidia Aitken** for her great organising skills, and other members of the **Ballarat West Rotary Club**. I would also like to acknowledge the excellent support given by **Lorraine Powell** and **Julie Bradby**, and members of the Friends who devoted their time to manning the gates. A great team effort by all those involved.

The agreement between the Clubs was that 20% of all gate receipts, advertising and sponsorship monies received be donated towards the Gate Keepers Cottage restoration. To that end I'm very pleased to report that I had the pleasure of receiving a cheque on behalf of the Friends for \$5,000 at a BBQ and drinks night presentation, organised by Lidia at the Gate Keeper's Cottage on Tuesday, December 11.

This cheque has already been deposited into the newly opened Foundation account, and tagged for the Gate Keeper's Cottage.

**The Speakers' Luncheon** on November 9 was well attended and ran very smoothly thanks the excellent skills of M.C. for the day, **Helen Todd**. Many thanks also to Event Co-ordinator **Carole Haines** and the organising Committee for arranging another successful event.

Speakers for next year's Luncheon have already been identified and will be confirmed in due course.

The **Memorandum of Understanding** has not yet been signed as I have requested that an extra paragraph be included. I have been advised that the addition needs to be approved by Council Officers, and then submitted to a Council meeting for approval. If the addition is not approved as requested, further discussions will need to take place to reach an agreed outcome.

A contract for the **Fernery** has now been signed with Resicare. However the project is still with Heritage Victoria waiting for approval.

Even though this year's **Springfest** proved to be another wet start for the day, it didn't deter **Yvonne Curbach** and **Bruce Holland** and others who willingly volunteered. Plant sales for the day raised \$1,384, a great effort by all those involved.

The year finished with the traditional **Christmas drinks and nibbles evening**, this year using contract caterers. The evening provided a good opportunity to socialise and get to know members.

After some consideration I have asked **Susan Pilbeam** (our Admin Assistant) to join the Committee as from our first meeting in 2019. I think it's important that administrative matters become part of the monthly Committee Agenda. This will prevent a lot of duplication and

Continues page 2...

**'I had the pleasure of receiving a cheque on behalf of the Friends for \$5,000 ...(towards) ...the Gate Keeper's Cottage'**

### Two specially themed tours at twilight time in January and February.



**Prime Ministers Avenue – January 25 at 5pm**  
**Statues in the Gardens – February 8 at 5pm**

Each tour will last about one hour.



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

See page 4 for new extracts  
from Tim's Blog ...





## FROM THE GUIDES GROUP:

**GUIDED TOURS:** As usual over spring there was a flurry of guided tours for groups from as far afield as Mornington and New South Wales. However some hardy souls from South Australia enjoyed a visit in August, stoically enduring a cold southerly.

The flower beds (quite a rarity in botanical gardens these days) proved a favourite, with many admiring their colour combinations and the sheer number of cultivated beds.

The artistic volcanic display in the conservatory also attracted considerable attention, especially when there was an 'eruption'!

Our regular free guided tours at 11.00am on Sundays were well attended especially by locals, some of whom share their stories of earlier times in the gardens.

The last tour for the year on December 8 was a Colac social group who visit Ballarat gardens and properties. The six guides for this tour were all presented with *Otway Kitchen Jam* - a festive touch and an appreciative finish for our guiding year.

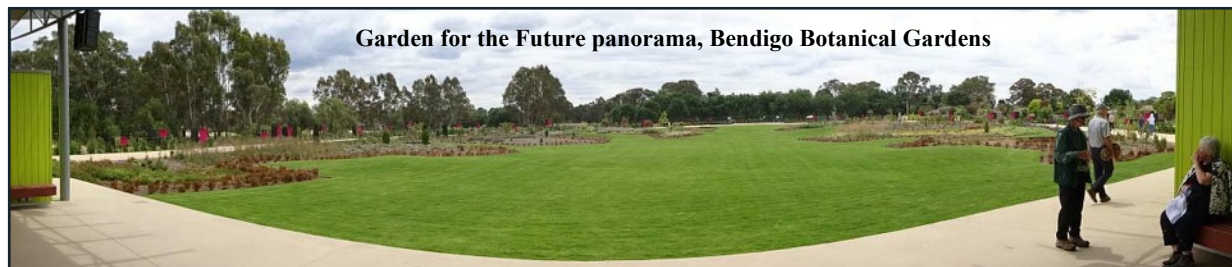


Guides on parade: from left Elizabeth, Trudie, Sue, Terry, Sandie, Warwick, Gina, Wendy and Brian.

Wendy Sandiford

## GUIDES' CHRISTMAS BREAK UP —

What better way to celebrate the end of the year but for the Guides to go on a guided tour!



Garden for the Future panorama, Bendigo Botanical Gardens

So Tuesday November 27 saw Guides and partners enjoy a very informative and stimulating tour around the **Bendigo Botanical Gardens**. These gardens were established around the same time as ours so it was interesting to compare the various developments over the years.

Jane Cleary, the convener of the Guides for Bendigo, lead us firstly through their extensive native garden, vegetated using local indigenous plants on the banks of the only remnant section of the Bendigo Creek still in its original alignment.

Amongst the historically-themed gardens, the "Victorian" was of particular interest with its apparently random planting. At the other end of the spectrum was the **Garden for the Future** with special brightly coloured viewing boxes; certainly encouraging a different perspective on how we see gardens.

Bendigo's summers can be particularly hot and Jane pointed out some of the older trees which always provided a cool haven and thus were a magnet for visitors on hot days. One of these was the Kei Apple tree (*Dovyalis caffra*) native to South Africa, under whose canopy we all gathered and disappeared from view!



Above: Ornamental apple walk, Bendigo Botanical Gardens

The Bendigo Botanical Gardens certainly have a special charm and are well worth a visit.

After the tour guides and partners enjoyed a social get-together over lunch on the banks of Lake Weroona.

Wendy Sandiford



Right: one of the many 'viewing frames' in the Garden for the Future

### Unusual separation of sexes in silvery South African tree!

"I've been to the Cape (of Good Hope). I was only there for a week (in late August) but in coming weeks I'll feature plenty of the floral highlights from this part of the world, starting with the conspicuous and attractive Silver Tree.



One of the spectacular South African Proteaceae (and therefore related to the likes of our banksias and grevilleas), *Leucadendron argenteum* is attractive to humans and the small beetles mostly responsible for pollination.ce: DSWAA website.

The blooms of the Silver Tree contain either male flowers or female flowers, not both, and a single plant will only have blooms on one sex. So, you could say there are male or female plants.

Both produce their flowers in tightly packed cones within a shiny dish formed by the surrounding leaves. At right is the male plant, being visited by a honeybee, helpfully helping the local beetles I hope.

And below is the female, sans pollinator and with flowers still unopened.

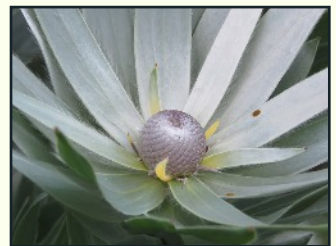
Separate sexes is typical of the coneflower genus, *Leucadendron*, and the featherbush genus, *Eulax*, both found only in South Africa. All other Proteaceae, I think\*, have bisexual flowers (with male and female bits together)."

\*Botanist colleague Phil Garnock-Jones noted in a tweet today (11 December 2018) that "NZ endemic genus *Toronia*, related to *Persoonia*, is also reported to be gender dimorphic, see Gardner, RO, *New Zealand Natural Sciences* 33 (2008)"

You can read more on this topic and others at <http://talkingplants.blogspot.com/>



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



### FRIENDS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 21 2019

The Friends are very pleased that Mr. Ian Shears has agreed to be our guest speaker on February 21 at the 2019 AGM. Ian now leads the City of Melbourne's "*stewardship and advocacy, external liaison and strategic work regarding urban forestry, integrated water management and green infrastructure*". The role connects the day-to-day management of Council's green and blue assets to contemporary needs and opportunities, in a time of changing climate and population.

Ian and his team have developed some of Australia's most progressive local government environmental policies. This has been recognised through many prestigious awards.



**Elizabeth Gilfillan**



### "The Hidden Orchard"

Calling all fruit lovers....and haters!

- Do you have a fruit tree in your yard that needs some love and attention?
- Are there fruit trees that you know of dropping fruit, feeding pests and making mess?
- Maybe you have trees and would love some fruit but need a little help picking it?

'The Hidden Orchard' are here to help. We want to redistribute this unloved fruit to those who want it, building connections with people and nourishing our community.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the harvests. No special skills or equipment are required, and you are welcome to a portion of the fruit picked. Sometimes our harvests include 'second' grade fruit which is suitable for juicing or jam making, so we are also interested in volunteers to register for jam making.

If you have a fruit tree that you would like harvested or if you would like to volunteer to help harvest please contact [thehiddenorchard@gmail.com](mailto:thehiddenorchard@gmail.com)  
[www.facebook.com/thehiddenorchard](https://www.facebook.com/thehiddenorchard) Telephone: Kris - 0490 058 330



## BOTANICAL LIVING COLLECTION OF BALLARAT



**The Cork Oak:** *Quercus suber* (pronounced *Kwerk-us sue-burr*)

There are so many favourite trees in the Gardens here with so many wonderful back stories to talk about. With the festive season just finished what better place to start than the Cork Oak and yes, it is still the source of wine cork stoppers!

*Quercus suber* is a very slow growing, evergreen Oak, that can eventually reach 20 metres tall.

We have two of these gorgeous trees close to the Western Walk – one behind the Camellia collection, and the other in the Monocot Bed.

They have a wonderful gnarled bark, press your fingernail into it and you will soon appreciate the resemblance to cork stoppers.

The national tree of Portugal, it also grows right around the Mediterranean in Algeria, France, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia. Natural Cork Oak forests also provide important habitat for several critically endangered animal species including the Iberian Lynx, Barbary Deer and Iberian Imperial Eagle. They are also known for their vast species diversity, only rivaled by the Amazon!

Cork Oaks have existed as a species continuously on earth for over 25 million years and even survived the ice ages unscathed.

Getting back to our champagne corks, yes they are sustainable!

The bark from this tree is actually carefully stripped off with an axe, without harming the tree. The bark re-grows but it does take nine years between harvests and they are productive up until 200 years. The largest Cork Oak in the world produced enough cork for 100,000 corks in one harvest at a ripe old age of 218!

But it's not just about champagne, flooring and pin boards. Cork helped put man on the moon (thermo-insulated the nose of Apollo 11). It is used in high speed trains (to make them lighter and faster), and used in movie special effects (explosions and the 'dust' from a bullet hitting the ground are probably cork). How could we forget the core ingredient of sport, with cricket balls, baseballs, badminton shuttle-cocks, fishing rod handles, some soccer pitches, and surf boards all requiring cork?

How can you beat a Cork Tree? (*..hmm; maybe with a stick? Ed.*)

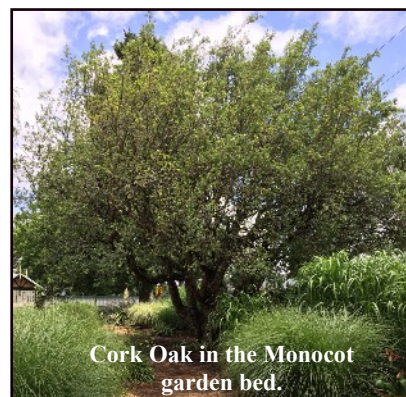
**Donna Thomas, Plant Collections Officer, Ballarat**



Ballarat Gardens' Cork Oak located behind the Camellia Collection



Cork Oak bark



Cork Oak in the Monocot garden bed.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

The Friends are pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined us in the last six months:

*Suzanne Batch, Bridget Carlson, Rachel Connell, Helen Cooper, Deborah Karmouche, Maria Kerin, Romany Lambert, Kerry Larkin, Kaylene Latimer, Nora Lynch, Pamela Maiden, Frances Peterman, Joshua Phillips, Justin Richardson, Sue Robins, Diane Russell and Joanne Valentine.*

Total membership is currently 358.

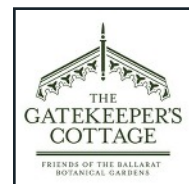
Some members will by now have received their renewal notices for 2019. We would be very pleased if you can attend to this as soon as convenient, and please use the form which I have mailed out so that we can check and confirm our records.

If any member has any queries about their membership, please contact me on 5335 9052 or [rdixon578@gmail.com](mailto:rdixon578@gmail.com).

**Raoul Dixon – Membership Officer**

### Important Notice

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 Cottage that will be one of our projects for next year. Julie Bradby





## CURATOR'S REPORT

Over the last few weeks of 2018 staff have planted over 10,000 plants in the annual beds and 260 dahlias in the new dahlia beds which are located along the Prime Ministers' Avenue.

Many visitors to the gardens will remember the large-scale planting of dahlias which was located near the Fish Hatchery. We ceased planting dahlias very early on in the millennial drought due to the lack of water at the time. The current Conservatory display includes hydrangeas and fuchsias from the Gardens' collection.

Topiary animals have made a return to the gardens in this year's freshly planted summer display. The animal shaped frames which are planted with *Lonicera nitida* first made their appearance in the gardens a few years ago.

Just before Christmas we welcomed Jude Schahinger back to undertake the annual maintenance and inspections of the



Newly planted bed near the Statuary

garden's marble and bronze collections. One task that always raises comment is when Jude uses a blow torch to heat the bronzes in the Prime Ministers Avenue before the application of a protective layer of wax. Some of the Friends will remember being involved in waxing the busts and needing a warm day to do so. Jude has been actively involved in the repair and ongoing maintenance of the collection for the best part of 20 years.

One of our most popular events, **Summer Sundays**, returns to the Botanical Gardens over three Sundays in January 2019. The event allows people to hear a range

of music, purchase food and refreshments from different caterers all in the gardens.

Summer Sundays is a free event presented by the City of Ballarat.



On display in the Conservatory

Peter Marquand, Curator BBG

*"Going half-way, half-heartedly, will give less than a quarter of the satisfaction." Anon*

## Volcano and BOAA

Though an ephemeral artwork, *Volcano*, was over a year in the making. Biennale of Australian Art (BOAA) Artistic Director Julie Collins, approached the *City of Ballarat* with the proposal for a living sculpture/installation by award winning artist Joanne Mott in the Conservatory. Having worked on a wide range of residencies, exhibitions and community projects, Joanne began discussing her ideas with gardens staff. They were enthusiastic about this unusual and challenging project and when suitable plants were selected, began growing them in the hothouses. The artist dried and painted many plants that were part of *Volcano*.

Our Ambassadors met Joanne Mott, who spoke about her philosophy of life, her interest in the earth, the earth's crust, volcanoes, civilization etc. The design concept was that you walked through a cool green valley, with blue and pink tones representing the mountains in the distance, eventually reaching the tall, conical volcano, in hot vibrant colours. The edges of the beds were volcanic rock from our Fernery, with occasionally, an evocative word such as hissing, gurgling etc. written on them. A soundscape included volcanic noises and a poem was also recited. Every 15 minutes the volcano emitted steam, much to the delight and surprise of visitors.

The Ambassadors found that despite information boards, few people (locals and visitors) realized the Conservatory was part of BOAA. There were problems with the sound and Ambassadors found they needed to explain the artist's concept to the public, to enrich their experience. Overall, the Ambassadors and public loved this unique display and it attracted many visitors. Not only was it lovely, but it was an amazing art work. Peter Marquand was as enthusiastic as his team at the possibility of future artistic displays. Well

done to Joanne Mott, and it was a pity if you missed seeing this display.



Friends' Ambassadors Brian Hay and Sue Heath in front of Joanne's volcano

Many members would also have enjoyed the wide range of sculptural works around the lake. It was also wonderful to see many and various Ballarat venues opened as exhibition spaces, including churches, ex-schools, halls, vacant shops and of course the atmospheric *George Farmer Building*, where Anna Glynn's *Swan Song* was exhibited.

BOAA is a not for profit organisation. To donate contact: [julie@boaa.net.au](mailto:julie@boaa.net.au) **Susan Pilbeam and Beth Dixon**

# Conservation Projects in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens – Update

One of the important roles of botanical gardens is plant conservation, and the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and Nursery Team are actively involved in conservation projects for two endangered local species - the Wombat Bossiaea and the Basalt Peppercress.

**Wombat Bossiaea (*Bossiaea vombata*):** The Wombat Bossiaea is an unusual looking plant, growing to around one metre tall and oddly is completely leafless! It is only found in the Wombat State Forest and amazingly, it was only classified into its own species in 2008. It is known to exist from only four individual plants – all of which were believed to be sterile!

**In exciting news, and 'firsts' for this species, the Ballarat Botanical Gardens team have successfully propagated *B. vombata* from cuttings and germinated seed – neither of which have been achieved with this species before.**

We have also been very fortunate to work with Dr Elizabeth James from the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, who has undertaken pollen and genetic studies on the Wombat Bossiaea, to help unravel this plant's secrets. We will keep you posted!

**Basalt Peppercress (*Lepidium hyssopifolium*):** The Basalt Peppercress is known to exist from only nine wild populations scattered throughout Victoria. We are working with a population from the Spargo Creek area which is under threat. (*The Ballan-Daylesford Road crosses the Spargo Creek. Ed*)

Working with DEWLP, this project has involved the establishment of a '**Basalt Peppercress living seedbank**' in the Western Walk, sending seed to the Melbourne and Kew seedbanks, seed germination trials, and the recent planting of a seedling trial in the North Wetlands.

**Donna Thomas, Plant Collections Officer, Ballarat**



Sheree and Erin collecting cutting material out in the field.

## BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION LIMITED

ACN 629 470 604

*From little things,  
big things grow*

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation Limited was created on October 18, 2018 as a public ancillary Fund. The Foundation is a **company limited by guarantee**. The initial directors are Robert Selkirk, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Mark Schultz, Daina McLeod and Peter Wilson.

The Foundation has now been registered as a Charity with the ACNC, will have income tax exemption, and is at present seeking endorsement as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) by the Australian Taxation Office.

**Purpose:** The Foundation's overriding Purpose is to raise funds to provide a strong, sustainable financial basis to support the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Other purposes include advancing the natural environment in the Botanical Gardens and, in so doing, advancing and preserving the heritage of the Gardens as a Horticultural museum.

**Intent:** To achieve the Foundation's objectives the Foundation will:

- \* undertake activities to generate financial and community support for the maintenance and development of the Gardens.
- \* develop relationships with key stakeholders, in particular the City of Ballarat.
- \* in all of its endeavours apply the principles of good governance, and meet all compliance and regulatory requirements.
- \* provide a mechanism for the broader community to contribute financially to the long term benefit of the Gardens.

Elizabeth Gilfillan was appointed the Foundation Chair at the last meeting of directors. A Bank Account has been established and the receipt of funds held by the City of Ballarat has been acknowledged.

Sincere appreciation to directors Robert Selkirk (Friends' President), Peter Wilson (Lawyer), Mark Schultz (Governance), Daina MacLeod, (Accountant), for their professional pro bono assistance.

**SAVE THE DATE.** March 15, 2019. There will be a **Launch event dinner** to be held at Pipers by the Lake.

**Elizabeth Gilfillan**



## FRIENDS OF THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc. will be held on **Thursday, February 21, 2019** in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, commencing at **10.00 a.m.**

Business to be conducted:

1. Presentation of reports of activities for 2018;
2. Election of Committee for 2019;
3. Any other general business.

This will be followed by a General Meeting when we will enjoy a talk by Mr. Ian Shears, City of Melbourne's urban forestry manager.

**Robert Selkirk, President**

## OUR PRIME MINISTERS AND AUSTRALIAN IDENTITY

Join this free tour at BBG as a prelude to Australia Day.

**Come at 5pm on Friday, January 25 and join the tour down the Prime Ministers' Avenue where our changing Australian identity will be explored. The contributions made by each of our Prime Ministers will be identified.**

Find out more about this unique outdoor art collection in Ballarat.

**A reflective and informative twilight guided tour of the Prime Ministers Avenue Ballarat Botanical Gardens**





# WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BOTANIC GARDENS

The Western Australian Botanic Gardens are located on the Mt Eliza escarpment overlooking Perth and the Swan River. They occupy a 17 hectare site. The garden is an ever-changing living research centre that focuses on the conservation of West Australian flora and displays the state's most diverse and spectacular plant groups.

Regional displays include flora from the Kimberley, Goldfields, Mulga, Stirling Ranges and many more areas. Beds are dedicated to native genera, such as grevillea, hakea, acacia, banksia, kangaroo paw, boronias and everlastings. Special areas are set aside to grow endangered species.

The State War Memorial has been located on a prominent site overlooking the city with the Ceremonial Walk being a feature. The spectacular double avenue of eucalyptus trees from the main entrance have plaques attached to each tree to commemorate WA military personnel who lost their lives in World War 1.

There are extensive pathways with excellent signage that entice you to woodlands of karri, peppermint, acacia, tuart, marri and jarrah along with water gardens, elevated walkways, statues and memorials and many garden beds as mentioned previously.

There are a number of boab trees from the North of Western Australia that were transported to this location to celebrate the unique Kimberley flora. Signs along the Boodja Gnarning Walk reveal details of how the Nyoongar people lived off the land in this region.

The absolute stand-out feature of the gardens were the spring flower displays; large garden beds of massed plantings of shrubs, perennials and annuals in an amazing range of colours. Most plants were unknown to me and even where there are labels I was not able to remember them. The kangaroo paws are incredible; the red and green one is native and is seen in many areas of the state, but some other colours were beautiful.

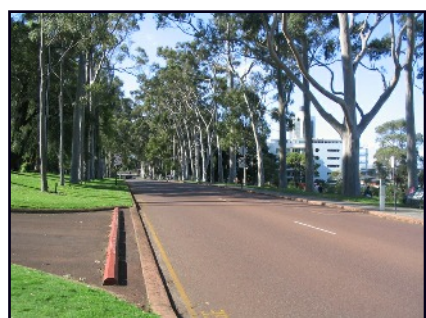
The pink and white everlastings have been allowed to naturalise in a few areas and it is a delight to see swathes of them.

The West Australian Botanic Garden is a small portion of Kings Park which covers 440 hectares; the area was set aside in the early days of settlement and still appears to be in its natural state. It is lovely to see the red and green kangaroo paws and single stems of a pink gladiola type of flower and many other native plants growing among the large trees and clumps of grasses, as they would have always done.

There have been three or four places that have been developed into picnic areas with lawns and water features and would be very pleasant areas for families to meet. There is a road winding through the Park where eucalyptus trees have been planted on either side and there are plaques here to commemorate W.A. military personnel who lost their lives in WW 1.

**Brian Hay, member of the Ballarat Gardens Guides**

*(Brian and his wife visited WA in October 2018.)*



*Gardening: a leisure activity of little leisure and much activity. (anon.)*

## Seen and Heard at Botanikids:

**Right:** 'Look Julie, I made a moustache with leaves and a stick', said Lachlan aged five. Priceless!

**Below:** Going on a bear hunt? No, just Black Hill PS exploring the flora of the Gardens.



**Above:** 'Look at the green doggy Mummy!'

**Right:** Julie Bradby in her 'starring' role decorating a young sequoia in the North Gardens







The last few months have been eventful and full of nature inspired activities with young children in the Gardens. While I was away the group was admirably led by Jenny Haynes who managed a couple of Under-Fiver sessions, again attended by big numbers, a school group or two from **Black**

**Hill Primary School** and a session as part of the *Children's Week* activities all very successful and with great feedback. Well done Jenny and team.



Black Hill Primary School students hard at work on their plant activity

We have just worked with **Pleasant Street School** grades 3 and 4 as a culmination on their unit of work on plants. We found the children most 'pleasant' and curious, as well as quite knowledgeable about plants and their attributes.

Our Under-Fives sessions have been outdoors in November and December in the North Gardens and we have so enjoyed great weather and again attendance has been 50 and over at each session. If you are a Facebook person, or know how to get on to Facebook, check out our posts you will see lovely feedback from the parents. We regularly post images of the events we run.



Black Hill Primary School students busy amongst the camelias on their recent visit

Just type in to your favourite search engine: **Ballarat Botanikids Facebook** and you will see our pages.

The **GateKeepers' Cottage** restoration continues to develop.

**Fundraising:** with nearly 200 tea towels sold with a profit of 25% on each one sold it has been a most worthwhile project. Thanks

and sincere appreciation must go to **Val Newman, Lorraine Powell** and **Sue Rattray** for packing and organising so well.

A cheque of \$5000 handed to us by Rotary West as our share of takings of the **Ballarat DesignFest Open Gardens** conducted as a joint project with the Friends and Rotary in November. We all assembled together at a very pleasant BBQ and a few drinks at the North Gardens and I have to say how lovely it was to meet all the Rotarians with the Friends who assisted at the Open Gardens over the weekend. We had the Cottage looking over at us too, assuring us all it will soon be all restored and ready for our use. Suffice to say the get together was just a lovely Christmas thing to do.

We are very thankful for the hard organisational work of **Lidia Aitken** [Ballarat West Rotary] and in particularly our very own, Lorraine Powell for making the Ballarat Garden DesignFest work so well. The funds raised will go towards the fitting out of the interior of the Cottage

The building restoration work at the Cottage has commenced and will continue until Easter all being well. The CoB have been exceptional in their organisation, support of the project financial as well as in goodwill at regular meetings with us this year.

**Wendy Jacobs** the consulting Heritage Architect has been generous with her time and advice so all is in place for a stunning restoration and renovation. We will endeavour to put more information with images on our website in the way of updates.

**Please contact us if you know of anyone who has any stories or photos to do with the Cottage. We are working with the History Group to collect the history of the Cottage for a display and a booklet to mark its restoration in 2019.**

**Julie Bradby, Convenor**

*Dear Botanikids,*

**RE: Thank You Botanikids for Your Valued Support**

*The 2018 Ballarat Show was a great success with record crowds and our biggest gates to date and wonderful weather to be had.*

*On behalf of the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc. (BAPS) I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous support of the craft sections in the 2018 Ballarat Spring Show held 9th, 10th and 11th November 2018. Our event would not be possible without the generosity of many businesses, individuals, groups and countless volunteers.*

*We are extremely appreciative of the continued ongoing support of our many sponsors.*

*Planning has already commenced for 2019 and we are looking at some major changes to create a bigger event. We would love to welcome you back for the 2019 Spring Show and will keep you informed of the changes as they begin to evolve.*

*If you require any further information please do not hesitate to call our office and I thank you once again for your wonderful support.*

*Kind regards,*

*Lucy Quartermain, Executive Officer,  
Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society*

## GUIDES' REPORT:

It was good to see the Gardens used as one of the venues to showcase the work of two of the artists during the six-week event of the Biennale of Australian Art (BOAA) in Ballarat during Spring. Often when we have these large significant cultural events in Ballarat they tend to concentrate more in central Ballarat as happens with Heritage Weekend and White Night. BOAA embraced the whole city with scattered venues. The conservatory and the PMs' Avenue were two chosen locations in BBG.

Creative ways to celebrate our history and gardens have occurred over the years. I have been told how a performance -- based on Richard Armstrong Crouch's largely autobiographical novel published in 1937 (under the nom de plume Richard Greenhill) -- and held some time ago was so well appreciated. The Guides in January 2016 held a twilight tour focusing on our trees. During the tour Peter Freund read out some of the poems created by the 2015 Poetry Pathways community writing project. These occasions are something a bit different and well enjoyed by those who attend.

Lynden Nicholls in her creative quest for BOAA used the Prime Ministers Avenue as the location to bring alive our history of how we have treated our indigenous population. "Facing up" gave us prime ministerial statements from Federation to today on our policies and treatment of Australia's Indigenous population and issues we have faced. I went to the performance where actors spoke for each of the Prime Ministers and very convincingly took on their voice and mannerisms. For some the comment was very short by our Prime Ministers -- "No comment". Nothing was done. The indigenous actors responded to the various changes in policies over the years and confronted the audience with their reality and their perspective on issues such as land rights, citizenship and treaty. Some dancing, some singing and smoking ceremony all helped create the scene for reflection. It was a very moving performance.

Lynden spoke at the end of the performance and indicated how the location could be used to highlight how our Prime Ministers have handled other issues our society faces. In fact it does not all have to be serious and suggested we could even trace the humour of our Prime Ministers.



Lynden Nicholls and Kevin Rudd

This event required a lot of research, funding and support and to have these creative activities repeated, obviously more of the same is required. If Ballarat strives to be a "creative city", I hope we see further creative use of the wonderful locations in our gardens -- trees, statues, buildings -- to educate and entertain us.

Connected to BOAA was also the **Murnong Project**. Those who participated in the U3A/ FBBG course earlier in the year will well remember Fred Cahir's account of the significance of this plant to Indigenous livelihood and the impact the grazing animals introduced by the new white settlers had on the plant's distribution. The lakeside sculpture by Tamsin Salehian focused on this relationship and looked hopefully to reinstatement of native plants and sustainable food sources. To support the message of her lakeside sculpture she has distributed two native Yam daisies to volunteers to plant in their backyard, to care for and monitor and hopefully demonstrate over time as these plants pollinate and multiply that we can reinstate a different ecology.

Occasionally the Guides run specially themed tours and this year on **November 11** Lorraine Powell was asked to share the stories highlighting the wartime connections to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. (See photo at right -- Lorraine wearing hat closest to centre.)



The group of participants learnt a lot, and were very engaged by Lorraine's lively presentation. On this special day for Ballarat's Avenue of Honour, Lorraine reminded us that it was the garden's curator from 1914-45, Thomas Toop, who supervised the planting and who designed the cairn at the western end of the amazing avenue. (see photo at left). He was a close friend of Tilly Thompson and worked alongside with her on this magnificent project.



One participant brought along the original newspaper copy of the *London Times* account of the peace treaty, *Treaty of Versailles*, and this also stimulated much interest.

Two more specially themed tours at twilight time are planned by the Guides for the summer:

**Prime Ministers' Avenue -- January 25 at 5pm (see page 7)**

**Statues -- February 8 at 5pm**

The Guides continue to work well together and enjoy our work. We now have 15 guides we can call upon and we are appreciating the involvement of our new guides. Special thanks to Jane Munro who follows up all the organisational details with group bookings, a work that often requires last minute adjustments when group plans are changed.

Guides start the New Year with their summer tours. In February our first project is developing and collecting material on the Sequoias. And so the involvement and interest for the Guides continues!

**Terry O'Brien, Guides' Convenor**



## GROWING FRIENDS' REPORT:

This year's Springfest takings amounted to \$1384, similar to last year. Thanks to all the helpers who turned up to assist us with sales. It was a most successful day and we had plenty of plants for sale. We increased our plant stock prior to Springfest so will have plenty for sale over the coming months.

**GROWING  
FRIENDS**



**Plant Sales:** Tuesday each week 1 pm to 4 pm, and the 2nd Sunday every month, 1 pm to 4 pm. (Our Nursery is open Sundays January 13 and 27, 1 to 4pm).

**Plant Prices:** Most plants at the Growing Friends Nursery are marked for sale at \$8 a plant, with members' cost of \$6. Plants marked at \$10 or more members take off \$1.



Janice Ray, Glenda Phillips and Wes Howlett potting up new plants

### Yvonne Curbach, Growing Friends Convenor



Terry O'Brien and Glenda Phillips thinking about what plants to buy



Yvonne Curbach serves another SpringFest customer



Bruce Holland and Rae Shearer at SpringFest stall; Sue Rattray looks on

*"New Gardeners learn by Trowel and Error"*

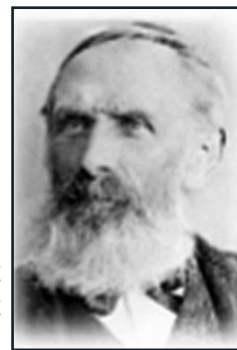


### 'Garden Cuttings' by Green-Thumb

- **The Spring Sunday Garden Tours** have finished but the Autumn Tours aren't far away. Absolutely FREE except for an hour of your time. You will be amazed at the fun facts provided. Green Thumb has had the pleasure of one local 92 year-old gentleman who came along on THREE different Sundays over a period of a few months! He was great company and was really keen to be involved. I hope to see him again come Autumn! Maybe I can convince him to become a Guide!
- Incidentally, there is **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 **Growing Friends, Western Bedders** and the **Ambassadors**. And don't forget **BotaniKids**!
- Green Thumb is looking forward with impatient anticipation for the **Fernery and Gatekeeper's Cottage projects** to kick into high gear.
- The Growing Friends are getting a **Shade/Sun Shelter** for their potting bench. A proposed structure costing over \$3,000 has been submitted by Peter Marquand.
- **Beryl Plummer and her Western Bedders** planted azaleas in October. Beryl would love another big project in the Gardens similar to the Monocot Bed, and is concerned that the group will fade away without something significant to focus on.
- **Blackwood Ridge** nursery is no longer giving the Friends members a discount on purchases. So no need to show your membership card any more when you buy from them. You can however become a member of their nursery if you want to access discounts and specials. You can do this on line at <http://blackwoodridge.com.au/>
- However, not all is lost in the 'world of discounts' : **Spot on Pots** still apply 10%, **Formosa Gardens** 5% and **Growmaster** now 5% as well.
- Green Thumb has been interested to do a bit of research on the background of **Ian Shears** who is the guest speaker at our February Annual General Meeting (**10am February 21 in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre**). Ian has been heavily involved in monitoring how Melbourne's mature trees (think Royal Parade or Fitzroy Gardens) are coping with the climate variations that we are currently experiencing. Should be a fascinating talk!
- Also looking forward to the Guides' **SPECIAL AUSTRALIA DAY EVE TOUR** along the **Prime Ministers' Avenue** (January 25 at 5pm). Should be a 'hoot'. In February some of the Guides will be conducting a second tour this time of the **Statues** in our Gardens – February 8 at 5pm. Everything you wanted to know!

**until next time...Green Thumb**

## GEORGE LONGLEY'S ACHIEVEMENTS REVISITED: REMEMBERING OUR GARDENS' FOUNDER



Many Friends will know the name **George Longley**, the first Curator of the Ballarat Botanic Gardens appointed in 1858. Tom Toop, Curator for fifty-five years wrote that Longley "*did pioneer work in the truest sense, as his was the hand that put the first spade into the ground and created from its virgin state the present beautiful landscape.*" Besides Longley's leadership in the development of the Botanic Gardens and nurseries, his many responsibilities included, the training of staff, the Sturt Street garden beds, street trees, the Viewpoint garden beds, care of the white swans, the Acclimatization Society, the Fish Hatchery, Menagerie and Deer Park as well as the maintenance of the Borough Meteorological records, all for a salary of three pounds a week. All of these tasks were performed without electricity, mechanical devices or mains water.

Originally, Longley had trained as a gardener at Lowther Castle, in England. He married Helen Tickle in 1853, arrived in Port Phillip and became a miner at the Black Hill diggings the following year. The hard physical labour associated with being a miner may well have been valuable preparation for the energy and self-discipline needed in his later career as a multi-skilled Curator.

Meanwhile, for the first 18 months, Longley and his family lived in a tent on site. One can only imagine the hardships endured by Helen Longley in Ballarat's cold.

After Longley was appointed as Gardener in Ballarat, one of the fundamentals of family life was attendance at the Jubilee Methodist Church overlooking Yuille's Swamp. Longley acted as Sunday School Superintendent and bell ringer there, which honed his skills as a leader and teacher. And, as a devout, sober and upright Methodist, he also ensured that the seats on the Garden swings were removed on Sundays!

His correspondence with the Ballarat Council and the Botanical Gardens Committee of Management revealed an abrupt, plain-speaking, practical man. In 1869, the Council ordered that the prison labourers who had worked in every corner of the Gardens were not to work within 50 yards from any tree or street. As no prisoners had escaped or gone missing, Longley wrote that he thought the order was "a most ridiculous idea" and there would be no other place than the Swamp for them.

At another stage, the Council replaced the Council carthorse with a pony. Longley was quick to point out that dung was heavy.

There was the expectation that Longley would provide reports on all that happened in the Gardens, even less important events. Various, he was to ensure boat holders did not allow passengers after sunset and report on the theft of the white swans' eggs.

Over the years of his service, at times, Longley had a difficult and tense relationship with those at the Town Hall. As Longley became older and not as strong, the Council sought his retirement and proposed to halve his salary and reduce his supervision and work to half. There was, understandably, a public outcry.

As a leader in his church and community, he was a foundation member of the Ballarat Horticultural Society; a frequent exhibitor in plant shows and he displayed the first pineapple grown in Ballarat. Under his stewardship, festoons would be supplied for a Mayoral Ball and 500 garlands of cut flowers were regularly prepared for the cemetery. Longley's purview as Curator extended into myriad aspects of Ballarat life.

What contributed significantly to Longley's work as a renowned Curator were his other talents as a teacher, lecturer and mentor. While Longley could be a dour and taciturn man in his dealings with the City authorities, he instinctively knew the value of education and generously passed on his skills and knowledge to those who were to succeed him.

Between 1880-1888, Longley began providing outdoor lectures for the Botany students at the School of Mines and Industries in Ballarat. Furthermore, Longley had his apprentices at the Gardens undertake a six-year programme and then two years as improvers with no guarantee of further employment. Longley was a hard man. And yet, as with most exceptional teachers, he inspired some of his apprentices, notably, John Lingham and John Williams. By 1890, these two men succeeded Longley as Curators. They continued and developed Longley's work with great success. BBG became a standard for other public gardens. Another of Longley's apprentices, Hugh Linaker went on to design the State Institutional Gardens of Lakeside, Mayday Hills, Larundel and Parkville with the Melbourne Domain being his last work.

Throughout the long years of service as pioneer Curator of the BBS, Longley acquired a world of experience and influenced other important gardeners. Longley had contacts far and wide, in Victoria, Australia and overseas. If he was not meeting or corresponding with other Curators such as von Mueller in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, he was busy procuring seeds from San Francisco and plants, birds and animals from other parts of the world. With an encyclopaedic knowledge of gardens, he was not only an authority in the world of gardens he had become a great communicator.

After Longley's death, Ballarat Council grudgingly permitted his second wife to remain in the Curator's cottage for a short time. No recognition was given for the essential support she gave her husband in his work. George Longley came to be remembered by a street named after him and the George Longley Building. And yet to this day, there is no actual memorial in the BBG celebrating his outstanding achievements! (*Why not? Ed.*)

George Longley is an iconic figure in Ballarat's history who must not be forgotten in the 21st century when we stroll through our beautiful Botanical Gardens.

**Stephanie de Boer, History Group**

*If the label says a favourite of birds it means avoid planting near cars and clothes lines.*



**DEER IN THE GARDENS:** The History Group continues to delve into the many thousands of records held at the **Public Records of Victoria** (PROV). Over the years letters related to the history of 'Acclimatisation' in the Ballarat Gardens have occasionally turned up.

For decades, many animals, fishes and birds were sent to Ballarat for acclimatisation and breeding. Some were then sent from Ballarat to other places, not always with success, and occasionally with overwhelmingly disastrous results. (One might mention sparrows, starlings and blackbirds as examples of a misguided idea.)

In 1874 the Melbourne Acclimatisation Society transported two deer to Ballarat, to be accommodated at these Gardens. The site selected, near the Swan Pool behind what is now Pipers by the Lake, became known as *Deer Park*, and came under the care of Mr Longley, curator of the Gardens.

In July 1882 the Town Clerk, George Perry, wrote twice in quick succession to a Mr Clark:

*'Dear Sir,  
A deer has been killed in a fight at the  
Gardens. I have directed it be sent to you –  
please remove the hide, head with antlers and  
feet, all for preservation, and cut up the  
carcass with joints if it is fit for venison; if you  
think it is fit for eating please let me know.  
Yours respectfully  
Geo Perry TOWN CLERK'*

[Source: VPRS 8118 P1 Unit 3 17-4-1882 to 14-5-1884 p135]

Deer remained a feature of the Menagerie on display at the Gardens, and were included in the list of animals on display at the **Henry Ben Jahn Zoological Gardens** from 1917 until its final closure in 1959.

*'Dear Sir,  
I directed Stevens' the Furrier to take the parts  
of the deer for preservation if it were fit for it.  
Our people at the Gardens reported it as  
having been killed on Tuesday only.  
Please send a/c for what you have done to the  
Town Hall.  
Yours respectfully  
Geo Perry TOWN CLERK'*

[Source: VPRS 8118 P1 Unit 3 17-4-1882 to 14-5-1884 p143]



**Lorraine Powell Convenor**

**A PERENNIAL PROBLEM:** Obtaining publicity for our guided events is a challenge. The Guides run tours for community benefit but the publicity comes at a cost!

Newspaper ads and membership at the Information Centre to distribute flyers to visitors and locals are all additional expenses for the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. We need to be letting people know loud and clear that free tours are available; about the Botanikids activities; how the Ambassadors in the Conservatory can enhance their visits; and that plant sales are available!

A new brochure highlighting these activities will be available in the New Year. The City of Ballarat brochure on the Gardens does not highlight these activities and hence the need for yet another flyer.

As already stated it is a challenge in how we get our message out to locals and tourists – a challenge shared by similar groups and organisations. The FBBG committee is looking at ways that promotion of our activities can be more efficient and will work with the City to achieve this.

**Terry O'Brien, Guides' Convenor**

## THE ART OF CRISS CANNING

Many members will know and love the art of Criss Canning, from her early group exhibitions in the 1990s at the *Art Gallery of Ballarat*, (*The Blooming Exhibition, There's Still Life*), to her *Major Retrospective* (2007).

Others may have come to know her work through *Lambley Garden and Nursery*, delighting in her influence on the garden's design and purchasing her cards, calendars and books. *The Pursuit of Beauty: The Art of Criss Canning* is now in its third revised edition.



Canning has exhibited internationally and is represented in the collections of the *National Gallery of Australia*, *Art Gallery of New South Wales* and the Art Galleries of *Ballarat*, *Cairns* and *Castlemaine* and at *Artbank*, as well as private collections worldwide.

She is now exclusively represented by *Southeby's* and her recent

More information: <http://crisscanning.com.au/>

**Susan Pilbeam**



**A NOMINATION FORM** for membership of the Friends Committee is enclosed in this mailout.

Please consider if you have the time and inclination to stand for a position. Completed forms must be received by the Secretary no later than **Thursday, January 23, 2019.**

**HAVING TROUBLE  
KEEPING UP  
WITH THE WEATHER  
RECENTLY?**

Whether the weather be cold  
Or whether the weather be hot;  
Whatever the weather  
We'll weather the weather  
Whether we like it or not.

## Coming Up in Buninyong Botanical Gardens:

'The Bard in Buninyong' presents:

**"LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST"**

February 8 7pm; 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm and 7pm; 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

February 15, 7pm; 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm and 7pm; 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

## SPRING BUS TRIP: MOUNT MITCHELL, LAMBLEY, HEDGEROW



Once again we had a beautiful spring day to explore three very different gardens in our area. Many members were inspired by Kate Toll's presentation at our Spring Meeting, to visit and see for themselves what had been achieved at *Mount Mitchell*, near Lexton. The garden was looking fabulous in preparation for the 180th celebrations and we had plenty of time for a leisurely morning tea at the newly renovated, and awarded, stables. Kate related funny and tragic stories of the struggles and joys of taking on such a challenge. The magnificent views over the lake towards the Pyrenees are an obvious compensation! There are many relics of the property's self-sufficiency and though the gas plant is no longer used, the bore water is still drunk, as well as used for irrigation.

To find out more about events, accommodation etc. <https://www.mountmitchell.com.au/>.



After some very nifty driving the bus made it through the gates of *Lambley Gardens and Nursery*, Ascot. David Glenn established his first nursery in the Dandenongs, where he met partner and artist Criss Canning. They became interested in setting up a garden-nursery in an area more representative of the Australian climate and created and curated four acres (1.6 hectares) of dry garden, over 25 years. The remaining property area is still farmed. Many members were surprised at how healthy the plantings were, receiving, essentially, only rainfall. David answered a wide variety of queries, as we toured the public and private gardens. The differing skills and interests of David and Criss have combined to make a garden of year round interest, wonderful variety and spectacular effects. Members also enjoyed browsing the thriving nursery and purchasing some unusual plants.

To find out more about tours, specials etc. <https://lambley.com.au/lambley-gardens-and-nursery>.



**Hedgerow:** Existing established trees and hedges form the basis and framework for new gardens created since moving here three years ago. Suzanne Batch and Vance Dickie began developing this charming oasis on the Kingston Avenue of Honour, again with the use of bore water. It is a private garden, previously opened only to raise money for the Avenue of Honour (Kingston) and in conjunction with *Alfredton Rotary* and *Uniting Ballarat*. The site includes the original 19thC house and stable, taking in panoramic views of the Pyrenees and the Great Dividing Range. It is named for the many hedges, which form various spaces or garden rooms. After a brief introduction, Suzanne and Vance invited us to meander and explore the garden and outbuildings. It was a delightfully relaxed and peaceful way to finish the day. For more information: [Instagram @hedgerow\\_kingston](#)



**Photos: Top pair:** Mount Mitchell gardens; **Middle pair:** The dry bed plantings of Lambley; **Bottom pair:** Hedgerow's new gardens.

Susan Pilbeam

## BOTANICAL ART GROUP NEWS 2018:

Botanical Art group had another successful year in 2018 with an increase in both talent and interest.

We held two workshops. The aim was to stretch our horizons and bring in play other illustrating areas and techniques.

The first workshop was with coloured pencil artist, **Janet Matthews**, who is very talented and showed us many *techniques on illustrating feathers and fur*. The second was with **Kate Nolan** and the subject was *Insect illustration*, another very successful day, with some very colourful insects to paint. Both of these artists are very talented in botanical illustration as well, we will contact them about future workshops in 2019.

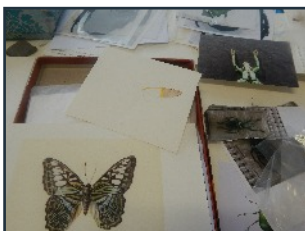
*Our art group consists of a group of people who meet weekly in the George Longley Room at the gardens (except during school holidays). We support and inspire each other in our artistic pursuits. Members range from professionals to beginners who all enjoy learning about botanical art. These relaxed informal painting days encourage members to share ideas and develop friendships with others who have a love of the art form.*

For further details please contact: -

Valerie Richards Botanical Art Convener 5341 2649 or [Valerierichards@iprimus.com.au](mailto:Valerierichards@iprimus.com.au)



*Below are photos of the group at work plus some of the inspiration for their work during the Insect Illustration workshop.*





## 2018 FBBG COMMITTEE AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

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

## 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.**



*Would you like to take on an evolving role for the Friends?*

Contact the Friends' Office **5342 9354**



## AROUND AND ABOUT THE GARDENS:

**Left top:** Marion Bradford doing what Friends do...help out! **Middle:** Part of the SpringFest crowd. **Bottom:** The Gardens' bedding displays were magnificent this SpringFest.



## GUIDES' AT BENDIGO

**Right top:** Elizabeth and Brian stroll through the Garden for the Future.

**Middle:** Looks like they're racing, but just quietly paying attention!

**Bottom:** The Picnic Pavillion at Bendigo.



# Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2019

Email: [info@fbbg.org.au](mailto:info@fbbg.org.au)  
 Website: [www.fbbg.org.au](http://www.fbbg.org.au)  
<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsBBG>

Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens Inc.  
 P.O. Box 33W Ballarat West 3350  
<https://www.facebook.com/ballaratbotaniKIDS/>

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. (During summer also open on 4th Sunday as well.) **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.

**Plant Labelling** - as required.

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019	<b>TWILIGHT GUIDED TOUR, 5 - 6 PM.</b> A reflective and informative twilight guided tour of the Prime Ministers' Avenue Ballarat Botanical Gardens. (See advertisement on page 7)
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019	<b>TWILIGHT GUIDED TOUR, Statues – at 5pm.</b> Come and discover the often overlooked feature of the Gardens. The statues have made a significant contribution to the Gardens' history.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019	<b>Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens 2019 AGM</b> at 10am; Robert Clark Horticultural Centre. Guest speaker: Ian Shears, City of Melbourne where he leads their Urban Forest and Green Infrastructure.
FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019	<b>Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation Launch</b> dinner at <i>Pipers by the Lake</i> . 6pm.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019	<b>MORNING TEA</b> with the ART GALLERY GUIDES AND BALLARAT MECHANICS INSTITUTE - . Meet at the Conservatory at 10.45am. Morning Tea at 11.00am. All members welcome. <b>RSVP. Friday, March 29, 2019</b>
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019	<b>EXCURSION</b> - Visit <i>Sunnymeade</i> the garden of Peter Shaw in Anglesea and also two other gardens including the Melba garden. Peter will join with us as we explore and visit gardens in Anglesea. More information will be available at the AGM in February.
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> -. Speaker will be our member Julie Bradby. Topic: <b>'From Little Things Big Things Grow'</b> . "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	<b>SYDNEY – Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens AGM</b> includes a guided visit to the National Plant Bank at Mt. Annan. (Details will follow in Autumn Wellingtonia or email.)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2019	<b>GENERAL MEETING</b> - The Garden History Society of Victoria will talk about <i>Edna Walling's Bickleigh Vale Village</i> in Mooroolbark.
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2019	<b>EXCURSION</b> - A special excursion to visit the Gardens at Bickleigh Vale Village where there will be seven to nine gardens open. This is a rare opportunity for members to see Edna Walling's vision for a model 'English style' Devonshire village in the heart of the Victorian foothills. <b>NOTE – A very early start will be necessary!</b> Further information in the Autumn and Winter <i>Wellingtonia</i> Newsletters.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2019	<b>SPEAKERS' LUNCHEON IN SPRING.</b> NOTE THE DATE FOR 2019 - Friday, November 15.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019	Christmas Function - 5.30p.m.

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



**Photo credits:** Thanks to Elizabeth Gilfillan, Brian Hay, Donna Thomas, Peter Marquand, Warrick Sellens, Criss Canning, Tim Entwisle, Julie Bradby, Susan Pilbeam, Jenny Haynes, Terry O'Brien and Michael Bird for providing the photographs/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 Autumn Wellingtonia 2019 are due by early March please.** Michael Bird, Editor.

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