

Wellingtonia



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PP Number 100020008

NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2017

From the President's Desk...



FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well what a great success the Begonia Festival was this year – as always of course! Blessed with fine weather it was an occasion enjoyed by all who attended.

For the Friends it was a financial success too. Our nursery sales and plant crèche brought in **a record \$7,000** over the three days. Congratulations to **Yvonne Curbach** and her team for all the work they put in to achieve this fantastic result.

Looking after the plant crèche, I was aware that the **Ballarat Begonia Society** sold out of their large plants by early afternoon each day, leaving many potential buyers somewhat upset and wondering why the Council no longer sells them.

Once again, the **BotaniKids** site was successful under Julie's guidance and direction so congratulations also to **Julie Bradby** and her team. For the first time this year, Julie put out a freewill donation box and was delighted to receive \$3,000.

None of this could have been achieved of course without the many Friends who volunteered their time to assist in various ways, some willingly staying on longer than their rostered time to make up for times when we were a bit short of help. So we thank them most sincerely for the time they gave to the Festival. Next year we will be hoping for even more volunteers to help.

Our **Annual General Meeting** was also a great success with what might be a record attendance of 96. We heard **Richard Aitken** give a most interesting talk on Portugal's Botanic Gardens where structures and buildings sometimes assume a dominance over plants.

The new Committee for 2017 was announced with only minor changes. **Cherie Schultz** did not stand for re-election and we thank her for her time on Committee. **Stephanie de Boer** now fills that vacancy and we welcome her to Committee. **Doff Kemp** will take over catering responsibilities from **Carole Haines** who had filled this role most capably for about 20 years, and was recognised for her efforts with a small presentation. **Julie Bradby's amazing work** developing and organising **BotaniKids** was also recognised at the AGM by awarding her a **Life Membership**. Congratulations Julie.

The **Fernery Redevelopment project** grinds slowly along and is reported on elsewhere in this Wellingtonia by **Elizabeth Gilfillan**. With the application for Federal funding being lodged by Council, it is necessary to await the outcome so as to be able to brief the architects on the funds available for the first stage. Some redesign work is anticipated and we can hopefully remove the necessity for a lift by providing ramp access for wheelchairs.

One of our members who was looking after plant sales in the Marquee during the Begonia Festival, was somewhat amused when a man came up to her and yelled, "*The Fernery is an utter disgrace – what are you going to do about it?*" It was politely suggested to him that perhaps he should take his concerns to the Council (*or nominate for the Friends Committee! Ed*)

The other current project is of course the **Gatekeeper's Cottage**, also reported on by Elizabeth. Since the last *Wellingtonia*, Council has now approved its relocation back into the Gardens which is welcomed by many. The cottage has been gifted to the Friends so it is unequivocally our own cottage and will be used principally for education, information and BotaniKids activities.

Progress on its relocation is also somewhat disappointingly slow due to various problems – some unanticipated and some, to our minds, unnecessary.

Our membership numbers, reported on elsewhere in this issue, have not significantly increased recently. I would encourage members to talk to their friends about the benefits of membership.

Until next time **Raoul Dixon , President.**

Monday 24 April:
Launch of the "Zoo Project".
April 2017 marks the
centenary of the opening of
the Ballarat Zoological
Gardens.
10.30 am in the Conservatory.



Thursday 4 May:
SPECIAL Morning Tea for NEW
(and old) members of the
Friends.
Come and meet the Committee
and Convenors of the Friends'
Groups.
Robert Clark Horticultural Centre
at 10.30am.
RSVP required for catering.



Patron of the Friends:

Prof. Tim Entwisle,
Director and Chief
Executive, Royal
Botanic Gardens,
Melbourne.

See page 5 for Tim's Blog ...

GUIDING GROUP NOTES:



There have been lots of guided tours of the Gardens recently. Sunday morning tours (FREE and starting at 11am outside the Conservatory) have recommenced for autumn. We have been especially busy with a large number of visiting groups as well. These have included Melbourne Botanical Gardens Guides, an AMA group from Melbourne, Camberwell Probus and the Elizabeth Gardening Club (Sth. Aust.), as well as a half a dozen large tour groups.



There has been a new emphasis for the Guides monthly meetings this year. Each meeting is being run by different members of the Guiding Group. In addition there is a topic focusing on an aspect of the Ballarat Gardens for presentation each month. These include a recent presentation

by Sandie and Sue on the topic 'Begonias', with special attention to the tuberous variety.

Other topics for future meetings include: the Western Bed; the Gardens' links with War; Roses and the Sensory Garden; and, Commemorative Trees in the Ballarat Gardens.

At the January meeting Wendy reported on her recent adventures visiting an icy botanical garden while in St Johns in Newfoundland. Jane had a much warmer experience in visiting the *Baboli Garden* in Florence., Whilst Michael missed the Madrid BG because they were closed for maintenance late last year!



A new manual for the Guides to use and co-ordinated by Terry O'Brien is in production. The draft copies have received a strong endorsement.

Terry also recently oversaw the production of a flyer (see left) to be distributed around Ballarat and advertising the Sunday morning tours, plus the plant sales by the Growing Friends.

Michael Bird, a Guide

Ambassadors:

Thirty people have shown interest in becoming an **Ambassador**, which is humbling to think that so many people are willing to give their own time during the weekends meeting with and talking to the public in the Conservatory.



As this is a new project for the Friends, we had our first meeting to map out some strategies. It was decided amongst many other things that we would work in pairs. This will give confidence to those people who feel that they have much to learn about the gardens. That means that 30 people cannot cover all the weekends, so if anyone else out there is interested, but perhaps a little hesitant please give me a ring on 53359052. Email rdixon578@gmail.com

We have two dates for the Council Induction Course and the Guides are giving us a tour of the gardens, followed by some social time over a cuppa on Thursday, 6 April at 10am. Hopefully we will commence shortly after that.

Beth Dixon, Convenor of the Friends' Ambassadors

Growing Friends



The Growing Friends had a very successful three days at the Begonia Festival this year. \$7003 was raised by both nursery and crèche, a record sum. The weather was beautiful and there were plenty of people browsing and buying our plants.

Thanks to all the helpers who supported us on the day. The next big event for the growers is Springfest in November when we will be looking for volunteers for the stall.

Plastic Pots are always needed: drop off at George Longley Building. Sizes 5, 6 and 7 inch (approx. 13 to 18cm) – no larger. Plastic bags would be useful too.

Yvonne Curbach, Growing Friends Convenor

Membership Report:

Current membership of the Friends is 341 with five Corporate members.

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last issue of *Wellingtonia*:

Margaret Whitefield, Geraldine Robinson, Katrina Podolinsky, Kim Nolan, Elizabeth Rush, Julie Mahnken, Connie Venn, Pat Gleeson, Liz Rosza and Esther Bartram.



We still have quite a few members who have not yet renewed their membership. I would very much appreciate your prompt attention to this matter. If for any reason you do not wish to renew, would you let me know so that I can amend my records. You can contact me on 5335 9052 or email to rdixon578@gmail.com.

Thank you.....Raoul Dixon, Membership Officer

In the beginning...

The earliest Minutes of the Botanic Gardens Committee began in February, 1860. While there are no consistent stories running through the early minutes, it would be remiss if an attempt was not made to record some of the early interesting activities that occurred, as well as a few quirky items.

In this paper, we concentrate on some interesting activities during the three years 1860-1862:

The large size of the Gardens was always a problem necessitating the carting of many loads of soil from the swamp to the gardens. For example, 50 loads on May 7, 1860 *'at the cheapest rate'*.

Any different type of activity usually required soil to be carted, as shown in the next item regarding construction of the maze.

On April 15, 1862 a further 52 loads of soil were required for trenching and planting the maze. However, preparation of the maze itself was also a very large task, as the edging of the maze had to be trenched two feet wide at the top, two feet at the bottom and 18 inches deep.

The gardener, Mr Longley, was authorised to have the ground for the maze drained with tiles (drain was lined with tiles Ed.) and conducted to the open drain in front of the Gardener's house. Fortunately, he was also authorised to engage hired labour for this work *'when the weather is suitable'*.

In April, 1862, it was decided that the island in the swamp be raised two feet – undoubtedly more soil to be carted!

Fortunately, he was also authorised to engage hired labour for this work *'when the weather is suitable'*.

On May 14, 1862, Mr Longley was authorised to *'bastard trench'* the western border and to have 60 loads of swamp soil carted onto the borders.

On April 25, 1863, carting of 300 loads of soil for borders was authorised.

In just three years, at least 462 loads of swamp soil were carted to the gardens.

In July, 1860, the gardener pointed out they needed a large water hole dug – 3 feet 6 inches in diameter to test the ground for a well.

On September 17, it was recommended that two waterholes ten feet deep, six feet wide and ten feet long be dug, one in the propagating ground and one in the enclosure, and that Mr Longley would obtain tenders.

On April 15, 1860 it was recommended that part of the land at the Botanic Gardens, not under cultivation, to be leased for grazing sheep.

Nothing further was heard of this recommendation, however in November, 1860, the gardener was authorised to allow horses in the enclosure for grazing, with not less than 2/6 per horse per week be charged for the grazing rights. Receipts for grazing rights were later listed.

On October, 1862, it was found necessary for *'fencing be put up to prevent the horses getting into the swamp'*. While on the subject of animals, in July, 1862 it was decided that an advertisement be placed in the local paper stating that all goats found in the Botanic Gardens would be destroyed!

Source: 1860-1864 Ballarat Botanic Gardens Committee Minutes courtesy of Ballarat Historical Society Inc.

"Remember that the most valuable antiques are dear old friends." Anon.

Heinrich 'Henry' Ben Jahn

Born 1831 Liegnitz, Silesia, Prussia - Died 28 December 1911, Liegnitz, Silesia, Germany (Leignitz is now in Poland and known as Legnica.)

The young Heinrich Ben Jahn had some training in metallurgy and gold smithing. He left his homeland in 1854 bound for the new antipodean goldfields, sailing from Liverpool on the 29 June 1854 —aboard the "Oliver Lang", (sister ship to the "Marco Polo" on which George Longley travelled to Australia), arriving in Melbourne on the 23 September 1854. From there he made his way to the diggings.

In 1856, aged 25, Ben Jahn was naturalised in Ballarat. He was living in Grenville Street and working as a gold assayer and jeweller. By 1864 he owned a shop on the corner of Albert and Lewis Streets, living in an attached four-room dwelling designed by J.T.Lorenz, architect of the façade of the Ballarat Town Hall.

He invested judiciously in gold mining, owning shares in the Chyseis Mining Company (Durham Lead), Erin-Go-Bragh Quartz Mining Company (Hiscocks near Buninyong) as well as the Old Camp Gold Mining Co. (Ballarat). Interest in sporting pursuits led to a donation in 1894 of a silver medal as second champion prize for rifle shooting.

'He was a nature student, and was very fond of animals and birds. He indulged in his leisure in long walks through the ranges surrounding Ballarat, and found pleasure in gathering wild flowers for decorative purposes.' [THE AGE 9 MARCH 1912 p 14]

Following his retirement, Henry Ben Jahn travelled extensively. On 2 December 1908 an interview was published in the Ballarat Star **'AN ENJOYABLE TOUR. MR. BEN JAHN INTERVIEWED.'** This detailed one of his travels - across New Guinea, Japan, China, and riding the great

Siberian railway from Peking to Moscow. He visited Sweden, Denmark and Germany, returning to his lodgings in Lydiard Street via the Port of Bremen.

He made his will on 3 May 1910 leaving his entire estate, valued at some £10,000, to the Ballarat City Council for the founding of a zoo in the Botanical Gardens at Lake Wendouree stipulating it be utilised for the purpose of instruction and amusement. The Ballarat Trustees Executors and Agency Company was the sole executor and sole trustee.

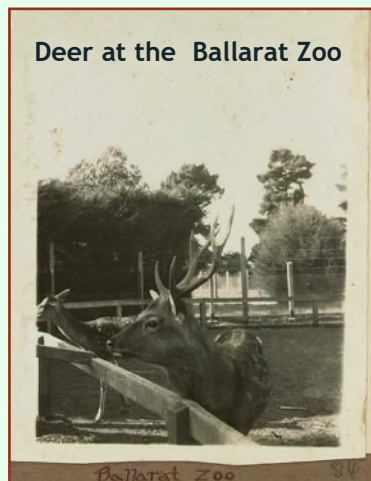
Following this he returned to Silesia, where he died in 1911. In September 1912 two shops and a cottage in Ballarat West were sold, the proceeds going to the City Council as he intended.

The Ben Jahn Zoo opened on 17 April 1917, closing in 1959.

In 1995, the residue of his estate was used to help fund the re-establishment of a wetlands in the North Gardens Reserve, now known as the North Garden Wetlands.

Lorraine Powell, History Group Convenor

Deer at the Ballarat Zoo



HOSPITALITY AND EVENTS:

Have you joined the Friends in the last twelve months?

If so, you might like to come along to a **Special Morning Tea** to meet our Convenors and learn more about our various activities in which you might like to get involved.

All members, whether new or old, are welcome.

Where? Robert Clark Horticultural Centre

When? 10.00 a.m. On Thursday, May 4.

To help us with catering, please RSVP before MONDAY, May 1;
email to info@fbbg.org.au or leave a message on our phone at 5342 9354.



Dalvui - a grand Guilfoyle garden

A large contingent of the Friends will be visiting Dalvui in late April. The tour has been hugely popular, so much-so that a min-bus has been hired to cope with the interest. Dalvui is a grand house with a wonderful garden designed by William Guilfoyle; his work is to be found all over the south-west in many of our botanic gardens as well as several private ones.



Crabapple Walk, Dalvui

A full report of the visit to Camperdown will be in the next edition of *Wellingtonia*.

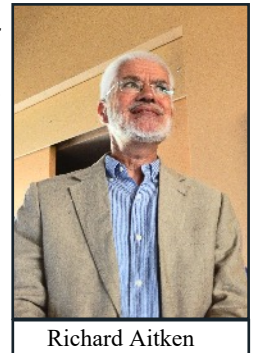
2017 AGM and Speaker:

Our 2017 AGM was held on Thursday, February 16. A massive turnout of Friends (over 90 signed in) attended.

Richard Aitken's presentation on '*Botanic gardening in Portugal*' was extremely well received. These little known but beautiful gardens share a climate and more than a few plants with our own.

Light and shade are hallmarks of the gardens there, and not surprisingly, a strong Moorish influence comes through with water features and glazed tiling commonly found. Interestingly, a French influence (esp. 1850's to 1860's) can still be seen.

Acacias and eucalypts are now very common! Richard believes there is now a 'national phobia' against bluegums, and that bushfires are a modern problem. He suggested a Mountain Ash at Luso is the tallest tree in Europe today. This tree was planted in 1890, and is over 65 metres tall.



Richard Aitken

"The best way to get real enjoyment out of the garden is to put on a wide straw hat, hold a little trowel in one hand and a cool drink in the other, and tell the man where to dig."

Charles Barr from '*Up the Garden Path*'

HOSPITALITY REPORT:

"I would like to thank all Committee Members and Members of the FBBG for all their assistance over the many years I have been Hospitality Convenor. I could never have managed with out your valuable input during all the Catering occasions. There have been so many I really cannot remember, but I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Hospitality Convenor.

I thank Doff Kemp and her helpers for taking on the position of Convenor for 2017. I know they will enjoy every moment."

Carole Haines



EVENTS REPORT:

EXCURSION to the Western District Gardens in April is all organised with thanks to Elizabeth for arranging all the details for this visit.

GENERAL MEETING - Thursday 18 May, 2017 will feature Judy Anderson as our Guest Speaker on the topic of **YARRABEE NATIVE GARDEN - LARA**. Judy will give an illustrated talk on the Design and the progress of this five-acre garden from bare landscape to the present time. The Garden features ponds, a dam, vegetable garden, large orchard and a colourful display of Australian Plants which can be grown in all gardens.

GENERAL MEETING - Thursday 17 August, 2017: Sheila Kentish will talk on the success of the **BALLARAT COMMUNITY GARDEN** including all the advantages of belonging to the group both socially and through the growing of plants. For any members interested a visit can be arranged following the meeting or at a later date.

EXCURSION. OCTOBER 2017: CLOUDEHILL GARDEN and SEASONS RESTAURANT.

All details for this Excursion will be in the Winter *Wellingtonia*. Additional information - Carole Haines 53388175.

Ballarat Botanical Gardens Redevelopment Project Group Report

Ballarat Botanical Gardens Redevelopment:

At the February Annual General Meeting of the Friends it was agreed by the members to support the FBBG committee decision '...to allocate \$100,000 from accumulated funds, to the Fernery Redevelopment at the appropriate time'.

At the same meeting the members supported the decision to recommend that \$100,000 also be taken from the **Ballarat Botanical Gardens Community Trust Fund** and provided for the Fernery Redevelopment, again at an appropriate time.

It was also agreed that the Friends be acknowledged and receive recognition for the contribution in a component of the development. This significant community contribution will enhance all future funding submissions.

Funding application for the Fernery project has been submitted to the **Federal Regional Grants programme**. The scope of works is to be reassessed due to reduced funding possibilities, and we are awaiting a reviewed brief and synopsis from the architects. A revised programme of works and of project timelines due to the changes are both currently being produced.

Another Friends Funding application will be produced with the assistance of BIRU consultant, Dominic Grounds. This will be presented to Regional Development Victoria for their consideration; it will also be used to source philanthropic funding.

Gatekeepers Cottage: The Friends (FBBG) sincerely wish to thank the Trustees/Owners of the Gatekeepers Cottage presently located at 1414 Gregory St, for their gift of the Cottage to the community through FBBG. They have actively worked to facilitate the relocation into the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

At the 25 February City Of Ballarat Council meeting it was resolved by Council that the original Gatekeepers Cottage be returned to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The Friends are very grateful to an anonymous Friends donor who has contributed \$40,000 to the relocation of the Cottage. This has enabled the process to proceed.

The purpose for the newly relocated and renovated Cottage will be for an Education and Interpretation Centre within Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

There has been considerable delay in the permit and relocation process.

The Cottage is now to be relocated including the rear skillion section; any additional costs for this will be covered by the City.



The cottage at 1414 Gregory Street

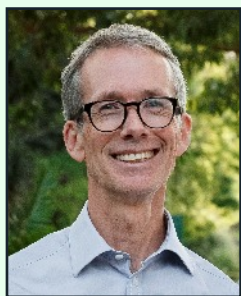
The City of Ballarat appointed Project Manager (an architect), has also recently produced a second plan for the renovation of the cottage, without reference to the original "brief" given by the Friends committee.

The Friends preference is still for the plan submitted by pro bono architect Richard Teed. The Friends are very appreciative of the support and work done by Richard and believe these plans respond to our brief, for emphasis on Education/Interpretation requirements of spacious light-filled areas spilling into the Gardens.

After the installation of the Cottage into the Gardens the two sets of plans will be submitted to Heritage Victoria. FBBG will meet with Heritage Victoria in Melbourne.

Elizabeth Gilfillan, Development Convenor

You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt. ~Author Unknown



FROM TIM ENTWISLE'S BLOG -Tuesday, 14 February 2017

Showy Crepe Myrtle, pride of the tropics

Pride of India is a species of *Lagerstroemia* (Crepe Myrtle) from China, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. As you will have noticed, not from India, although there are numerous references (logically with a common name like this) to it growing in that country.

More reliably perhaps, a scientific paper on the reproduction of the species specifies its range in India as 'across the Northern Himalayas and Western Ghats'.

The increasingly commonly planted Crepe Myrtle in southern Australia is *Lagerstroemia indica*, definitely from India in this case - plus a few other nearby countries - although there are other native and exotic species available in horticulture. Most of them are bursting into flower across Melbourne as I write. All up there are about 55 species of *Lagerstroemia*, growing naturally in Australia, eastern Asia and .. into Japan.

We don't grow Pride of India, *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, in the Melbourne Gardens but there is (or was) a specimen in Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden, and it is commonly grown in the tropics. You will see more often around Melbourne cultivars of *Lagerstroemia x matthewsii*, a cross between *Lagerstroemia speciosa* and *Lagerstroemia indica*, and various mixes and selections of this hybrid and the species. My pictures of the Pride of India are from outside a church in Darwin, N.T. The wood of the species seems to be something of which we should be particularly proud. In India, where we'll say it's native, the wood

is used for construction of furniture, buildings, boats and rail sleepers. The wood is tough, durable and water resistant.

Other parts of the plant have more transient uses such as the leaves being used to make a tea, leaf extracts being used as an insulin-like treatment for diabetes, and the fruits used - somehow - to cure mouth ulcers. Take care with this plant though - some parts are 'astringent', others are poisonous.



You can read more of Tim's Blog about this topic amongst many others at:

<http://talkingplants.blogspot.com.au/>

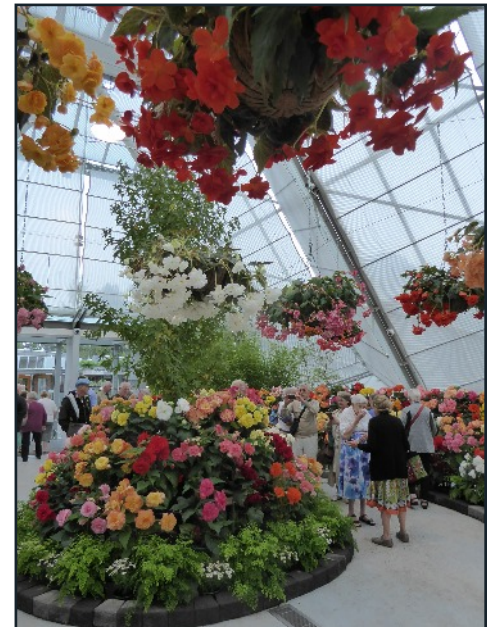


AT THE BEGONIA FESTIVAL 2017

This page: *clockwise from above:* Watering flowering baskets in the fishpond; Lego parrot; Topiary tree display; Friends Plant stall; Friends HQ for the long weekend; Elizabeth, Beth and Rae—hard working Friends; Prof Tim Entwisle conducts the AGM election; Carol Haines, retiring Hospitality Convenor; Peter Marquand at the Friends AGM; Presentation of Life membership for Julie Bradby by President Raoul.

Right page: *Top row—*three flower be-decked PMs and President Raoul Dixon. *Remaining photos show:* Friends at work and the Conservatory Begonia display plus one of the numerous musical acts during the Festival.





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GARDENS?

Curator's Report

Once again large numbers attended this year's Begonia Festival. Over 60,000 people enjoyed the beautiful early Autumn weather over the March long weekend. People happily queued for the mostly free activities, appreciated the many different food options and enjoyed the free entertainment. This year just over 24,000 people viewed the begonia display in the conservatory.

The lawns have recovered amazingly well helped by rain fall on March 21 and a post-event remediation program including the aerating of lawn areas and the spreading of fertilizer.

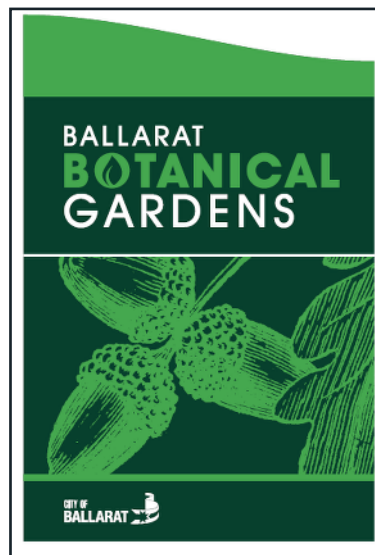
Just prior to the festival Jude Schahinger completed maintenance work on the Claxton monument (*below*) which is located at the front of the fernery. Jude resealed the pond base, repainted painted surfaces and replaced one of the damaged previous repairs. The work on the Claxton monument follows on from maintenance



on the Thompson and the Stoddard collections as well as the busts in the Prime

Ministers' Avenue.

Included in this year's Begonia display are seven panels showing images from the last sixteen decades of the gardens history (*see photo below*). The panels were a combined project between the history group and Donna Thomas (Plant Collections Officer)



Peter Marquand, Curator

An important gardening judgment - When to Do Nothing!

The Gardens' Collections:

Begonia talks: These are new this year and promoting the Begonia collections as well as 'all things Begonia'! Weekdays at 10.00 am and 2.00pm for the duration of the Conservatory display. Public feedback has been very positive.

Conservatory canvasses: Another big thank you to the History Group for their extensive research for the Gardens' 160th anniversary canvasses on display in the Conservatory; they look terrific and continue to receive very favorable comment.

The Lake Foreshore precinct: In another exciting '160th project', we will soon commence labeling of the trees in the Lake foreshore arboretum. Labeling will promote this area as an important part of the gardens and its tree collections.

Sensory Garden renovation complete:

There is a new, specially engineered, decorative fence around the fountain and new laser-cut steel signs that highlight sensory attributes, and the 160th anniversary. These will age to a rusty patina.

A big thank you to Joy O'Brien for all her fabulous work on the plant labels for the sensory garden. These labels are unique in the gardens, black, larger font, and less wording, to be more easily read by vision impaired visitors. The common names in Braille stickers are also on these labels and we'll see how they weather.

The Friends 'Western Bedders' continue to do a great job in maintaining this area.

Donna Thomas, Plant Collections Officer BBG



One of the new Braille labels



Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens (AAFBG)

Your Association has a new website and we would love you to have a look. It is still evolving and more news of Botanic Gardens around Australia and the world will appear. The web address is: www.friendsbotanicgardens.org



The next Annual General Meeting of AAFBG is to be hosted by the Australian National Botanic Garden in Canberra on Saturday, 20 May. There will be a full day of activities and lunch. Dr Judy West will be the Guest Speaker. Dr West is Executive Director of Parks Australia, responsible for National Parks within Australia, Kakadu, Uluru, plus Christmas, Cocos and Norfolk Islands.

On the following Sunday morning the **Friends of National Arboretum** will host tours and morning tea. All members of the Friends are invited and it is hoped that there will be a strong representation from Ballarat to enjoy what ANBG is doing. Please register and if you can join us.

Elizabeth Gilfillan, Vice President AAFBG

AROUND AND ABOUT — SOME 'LOCAL' EVENTS

Friends members may like to take advantage of the following events which will be held soon in nearby locations. While these events are not FBBG related, they are being run by gardening groups to benefit their communities.

CRESWICK GARDEN CLUB



-presents-

Josh Byrne

ABC **Gardening Australia's** presenter

Saturday July 29 2017

9.30am to 3.30pm

\$60 including:

**Coffee & Tea upon arrival, Morning Tea
plus a 2-Course Luncheon**

At the RACV Goldfields Resort

1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick Vic 3363

For bookings call

Phyllis on 53452514 or Leanne on 0437 518 159

ARARAT:

Western Regional Garden Clubs Conference

Where: Ararat RSL, 74-76 High St, Ararat

When: Saturday April 29, Registration 9.15am, Morning Tea, lunch and Afternoon Tea:\$30

Guest Speakers:

Mr David Glenn *Lambley Nursery*.

Dr. John Harrison *Apothecary* (Sovereign Hill). On the Goldfields, an apothecary was called upon to treat a variety of medical conditions and disorders using concoctions made from plants and herbs and also ready made remedies.

Contact: Anne Sandow 0483 39318 or

ruby1957@bigpond.com

(RSVP 22 April)

EURAMBEEN: Join Horticulturalist **Carmichael Stabbins** and Eurambeen Homestead owner **Sarah Beaumont** for three workshops:

How to Make great Compost: Saturday, 8 April. **Pruning and Caring for Roses:** Saturday, 10 June. **Plant Propagation:** Saturday, 9 September. Each workshop is \$100pp which includes a tour of the garden and a delicious lunch.

To enrol contact sarah@eurambeen.com.au or telephone 0407471107

Accommodation at Eurambeen is also available if attendees would like to stay overnight.

DO 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.

Also, it makes it easier for our Treasurer if you **state what the payment is for**, e.g. membership renewal, bus trip, etc.

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

BALLARAT DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS

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

You will need to show your FBBG membership card

BALLARAT
Gardens
in Spring

Ballarat Gardens in Spring 2017:
Speakers Luncheon - November 10
Open Gardens - November 11 & 12
Details to come ...
www:ballaratopengardens.com.au

Ambassadors

*Would you like to take on a new
role for the Friends?*

Meeting Thursday April 6 at 10am.

Ballarat BotaniKIDS: Planting with Growing Minds

Kidspots...plants....soil!.... and now a cottage!

Yes!!! It's been ten years since we formed **The Education Group**. With an active little group we began by undertaking simple activities to involve children and their families in the Gardens.

.....From little things big things grow!!!

The BotaniKids team often undertake a potting task for our events and happenings and estimate that over the last ten years we have helped many 1000's of children pot a plant and many other activities too. This includes our well established Begonia Festival marquee, our Play Days, holiday activities, school, Kindergarten and our Under-Five programs.

We like the children to get their hands dirty! We want them to really feel the soil, feel the pebbles, feel the mulch, feel the plants, see and feel the roots and feel the textures of nature. (Often sadly that is a novelty for them! Children are rushed through activities, and some rarely get dirty!)

We take time over this process. I have witnessed other so- called children's potting activities where the adult quickly pots the plant for the child or offers no opportunity to talk, question or learn. Everyone is hastily moved on! I always feel sad when I see this. As a teacher I regret the lost opportunity for learning about living things that is regrettably missed.

We teach the children that a plant gets a little 'shock' when it is transplanted, and it is like a start at a new school, or moving houses, and how children have to adjust and give themselves time to settle. We show the children that they will need to look after their adopted plant give it just the right amount of water, food and light to help it adjust to its new home. Just like people plants need those things to thrive and grow.

So, the basic planting of a pot becomes an important lesson in life!

Lately as you can imagine I have been thinking and wishing about the **Gatekeepers Cottage**. I feel the moving of the Cottage back into the Gardens is so like our transplanted potting activity. And now that activity is being echoed in our endeavours and ideas for the Cottage. We are 'transplanting' and returning the Cottage to our Gardens. We plan to create a lovely home for education in the Gardens where we will take time over the planting, potting and learning, We will share and show whoever visits our Cottage that plants are the essence and joy of life itself!

Please jump on board to help in any way, as we now step into an exciting new era establishing the Gatekeepers Cottage (being part of the Gardens Development) as a centre of education and interpretation in our beautiful Gardens.

Thank you to those who have worked so hard to get 'The Cottage' to this point in time and ...watch this space! But I can say there will be no time for just watching there will be plenty of 'doing'! Can't wait! **Julie Bradby**
Convenor Educating Group & Ballarat BotaniKIDS



The BotaniKids 'pot a plant' activity at the 2017 Begonia Festival was an outstanding event. The photos illustrate the commitment of both volunteers and their 'clients'!



FBBG Response to Lake Wendouree Masterplan:

Earlier this year the Friends Committee submitted a response to the City of Ballarat's Lake Wendouree Masterplan. An edited version follows:

"The Ballarat Botanical Gardens are registered on the Victorian Heritage Register H2252 as being of Significant Cultural Heritage, being the land area bounded by Lake Wendouree, Gregory Street, Carlton Street and Gillies Street. They are of historical, scientific, aesthetic and social significance to the State of Victoria, being one of the best examples of a botanic garden in Victoria. (Consequently...) most activities within this precinct require permits and should retain the existing layout, character and botanical plantings.

1. TRAMWAY AND MILITARY INTERPRETATIVE CENTRE: The Tramways have always had an historic connection with the Gardens but a military museum does not. Accordingly, we are opposed to the inclusion of the Military Interpretive Centre, but would agree to the expansion of the Tramways operations to the minimum necessary to achieve their objectives of a better display area.

2. PRISONER OF WAR STORY CENTRE: ..serious concerns about additional buildings on the gardens precinct. If it goes ahead the footprint should be of minimal size; .. suggested location .. behind the war memorial, close to the corner of Carlton and Gillies Streets.

3. BOTANICAL GARDENS FERNERY AND LANDSCAPE: As the principal proponent of this project, The Friends naturally fully support it. We believe that the successful redevelopment of the Fernery is essential. It will complement the Botanical Gardens experience as well as providing educational and general interest to the public. The outstanding design concept is of world standard and will be a major drawcard for tourism

4. LAKE WENDOUREE LIGHTING CONCEPT: agree in principal, (with) discreet lighting and turned off at an appropriate time.

5. OUTDOOR GYM FACILITIES: .. agree with the concept of the outdoor gym facilities with the strong proviso that they must not be sited on that part of the Western foreshore of the Lake that is located within the bounds of the Botanical gardens. We would also prefer to see that the footprint of such facilities is minimised and does not compromise the aesthetics of the shoreline.

6. SCULPTURE TRAIL IN THE WETLANDS: The Friends agree in principal with this proposal. However it is essential that the vegetation in the Wetlands is renovated before the sculptures are sited, and the sculptures must be integrated so as to be sympathetic to the Wetlands experience.

7. URBAN BEACH CONCEPT: Whilst not of direct concern to our interest in the Botanical Gardens, The Friends are generally not supportive of this proposal.

8. COMMUNITY LAKE HUB: Again, it is recognised that this proposal has no relation to the Botanical Gardens. However we wish to express the view that we would desire to maintain the appearance and aesthetics of the foreshore of the Lake as far as possible. To this end, should the proposed building proceed, we would recommend that it be sited in conjunction with existing boatshed buildings to minimise its impact.

9. NORTH GARDENS CRITERIUM CIRCUIT: The Friends are totally opposed to this proposal. The Botanical Gardens are not a place for sporting venues or events. Whilst "one-off" events such as concerts in the North Gardens can be accommodated, this proposal would compromise any further development of the area as a Botanical Garden and Arboretum as provided for in the Visionary Plan. It must not be allowed to proceed. We would suggest Victoria Park, already a sporting precinct, as an (alternate) location.."



'Garden Cuttings' by Green-Thumb

The Friends Committee are very keen to adopt the use of a better '**booking system**' for our tours in spring and autumn. Stay tuned. It is likely to be "Trybooking.com".

- A launch date for the History Group's **Zoo Project** report has been set for Monday, 24 April at 10.30 am.
- What a tremendous result for the Growing Friends (\$7000+) for the Begonia Festival recently! In addition 'donations of over \$3000 were taken by the BotaniKIDS. Fantastic!
- The **February AGM** was a resounding success....over 90 in attendance. A record? Julie Bradby's 'Life Membership' was well received and definitely well deserved.
- *Green Thumb* is a bit worried about the relocation process for the **Gatekeeper's Cottage** from Gregory Street to the North Gardens. It seems that it is not all plain sailing. **And I thought it was all cut and dried!**
- Beth Dixon is chuffed about being able to recruit a likely-looking group as **Ambassadors**. They meet again soon for the induction process for people working in the Gardens, plus a tour with the Guides. Exciting times.
- The **Gardens in Spring Committee** has been busy behind the scenes. They are hoping to acquire their own tables, chairs and gazebos since the cost of hiring has become a significant amount each year. They are also finalising the gardens to be open this year. Put **Ballarat Gardens in Spring 2017** in your diary: Speakers Luncheon - November 10; Open Gardens - November 11 & 12.
- Did you know the Ballarat Botanical Gardens soon celebrate its **160th birthday**? What will this mean? How should we celebrate this momentous occasion? Did you know some things are already happening?
- The Friends Committee has spent a long time discussing '**accident reporting**' in and around the George Longley Building (GLB). The issue is complicated because, while the Friends own the building, it is located on Crown land which in turn is controlled by the City of Ballarat. One outcome has been the formalising of an accident reporting process in the GLB plus notices about what to do when an injury occurs.

Green Thumb

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2016

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2017 FBBG Committee and Areas of Responsibility

POSITION	NAME
President & Membership	Raoul Dixon
Vice President	John King
Secretary	Susan Rattray
Treasurer	Bruce Holland
Development Convenor	Elizabeth Gilfillan
Education Convener	Julie Bradby
General member	Carole Haines
General member	Stephanie de Boer
General member	Helen Vincent
General member	Kathleen Hobson
Growers Convenor	Yvonne Curbach
Guides Convenor	Terry O'Brien
History Convenor	Lorraine Powell
Hospitality	Doff Kemp
Western Bed Convenor	Bill O'Driscoll
Newsletter Editor	Michael Bird
Ambassadors Convenor	Beth Dixon (non-Committee)
Botanical Art Convenor	Valerie Richards (non-Committee)
Engraving Convenor	Joy O'Brien (non-Committee)

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



MEETING TIMES 2017

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

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.

History Group - 1st Tuesday each month 4 pm.

Educating Friends - 2nd Tuesday each month 10am

Plant Labelling - as required.

Coming up:

Thursday 6 April - AMBASSADORS meeting, at 10am. (see page 2)

Monday 24 April - 'Zoo Project' Launch. 10.30 am in the Conservatory.

Wednesday 26 April - Autumn Tour to **Dalvui and Cammeraygal Botanical Gardens** plus a **mystery garden**. Bus will leave the Ballarat Botanical Gardens 8.30am

Thursday 4 May SPECIAL Morning Tea for NEW members of the Friends. Come and meet the Committee and Convenors of the Friends' Groups. Robert Clark Horticultural Centre at 10.30am.

Thursday 18 May GENERAL MEETING - Judy Anderson Guest Speaker - "YARRABEE NATIVE GARDEN - LARA".

Thursday 17 August GENERAL MEETING - Sheila Kentish Guest speaker - "BALLARAT COMMUNITY GARDEN".

OCTOBER – Date to be fixed. DANDENONGS SPRING EXCURSION to CLOUDEHILL GARDEN and SEASONS RESTAURANT. All details for this Excursion will be in the Winter Wellingtonia.



Above: The Friends Committee hard at work at a recent monthly Committee meeting in the George Longley Room. Seated from the left: Treasurer Bruce, Carole (Events), Secretary Susan, President Raoul, Julie (BotaniKIDS), Helen, Kathleen; and the three gentlemen at the front right are: Peter Marquand (BBG Curator), Terry (Guides) and an obviously weary Michael (Wellingtonia editor) head down!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH "I must have flowers, always, and always." ~ Claude Monet

Photo credits: Thanks to Raoul and Beth Dixon, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Julie Bradby Jennifer Burrell, Helen Vincent, Peter Marquand, Tim Entwisle, Donna Thomas, Susan Pilbeam and Michael Bird for providing photographs/illustrations used in this edition. Ed.



Disclaimer: The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens or those of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Neither the Friends nor the Ballarat Botanical Gardens accepts responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable and accurate information. **Contributions for Winter Wellingtonia 2017 are due by the end of May please.** Michael Bird, Editor.

Editorial Committee: Raoul Dixon, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Helen Vincent and Michael Bird.