

Wellingtonia



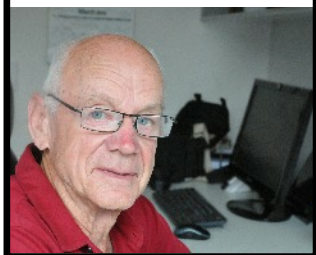
ABN 32 346 573 092 ACN 3465 info@fbbg.org.au www.fbbg.org.au

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

PP Number 100020008

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2016-17

From the President's Desk...



FRIENDS OF BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope that you have all enjoyed your Christmas festivities and are looking forward to the New Year.

A couple of rather negative items to start this report before getting on to more positive news.

Firstly, the Fernery Redevelopment is agonisingly slow with little progress since the last Wellingtonia. We are liaising with the City of Ballarat to pursue funding options with Regional Development Victoria (RDV).

However RDV have many calls on their funds and we need to get the message through about the value of the redevelopment to Ballarat in terms of increased visitor numbers and hence increased visitor revenue. We have no doubts that the project will be of national interest, eclipsing most other such developments in Botanical Gardens around Australia with its innovative ideas.

Our problem is to convince RDV of this. Other projects such as the Eureka sports development seem to gain more traction, even though that particular development is designed to stage just two major football matches per year whereas our project will attract visitors all year round.

Members are no doubt aware that nothing would have been achieved in this redevelopment had it not been for continued lobbying and pressure from the Friends. It is disappointing that our efforts

sometimes do not receive the acknowledgement they deserve. This comment stems from news that at a recent meeting of BGANZ (Botanical Gardens of Australia and New Zealand), our Fernery Redevelopment was reported on but apparently with no mention of the role played by the Friends.

The other negative relates to the former Gatekeeper's Cottage, currently located at 1414 Gregory Street.

The owners are selling the property for redevelopment and are very keen that the cottage be preserved for its historic interest. We have been in contact with the owners and we have the rights to purchase the cottage for relocation.

One of our members has kindly offered to fund the relocation, although there would still be major additional costs involved with refurbishment and adaptation to meet our intended needs (mainly to service our BotaniKids activities).

However there is some uncertainty about approval for its relocation. Council has asked for a further report. Without that permission, and without the additional funding, the relocation cannot proceed and it appears at this stage that we might be at a dead end.

Now on to happier and more positive news.

I was approached recently about the possibility of the Friends being involved in a research proposal being planned jointly by the University of Melbourne and Federation University, called "Seeding our Future". The following extract is taken from the initial email that I received:

"Seeding our Future" proposes an action/participatory research partnership between University of Melbourne, Federation University and participating partners to "conduct a series of

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Education in the BBG



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

See page 7 for Tim's Blog ...

PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued from page 1

regeneration projects in collaboration with local councils and cultural institutions that will transform under-utilised green spaces into flourishing ecosystems, cultural artefacts and social linkages. Envisioned as a series of 'children's gardens' – created with, for and by local primary school students – a key focus of our research is fostering children as future custodians and co-creators of place and engaging them in regenerative processes."

In discussions with Uni representatives, we have identified a currently unutilised site adjacent to the Wetlands in the North Gardens. The proposal envisages revegetating this with native species which ties in beautifully with my previously expressed interest in making much better use of these wetlands.

The proponents have asked for a financial commitment from us of \$10,000 per year for three years, a total of \$30,000. I put this to the Committee and received unanimous support.

We see it not just as a very worthwhile project, but will be a vehicle to give the Friends greater exposure to the general public.

The Friends have enjoyed a number of very pleasant social occasions recently. First was our bus trip to the Kyneton area. This is reported elsewhere in *Wellingtonia*. Due to wet weather preventing bus access to the chosen property, *Bringlebit*, Carole Haines had to do some hectic reorganising with only a few days notice. Despite somewhat inclement weather, we all enjoyed the rearranged trip enormously.

Then we had the annual Spring Gardens luncheon and associated Open Gardens weekend. This was, as usual, superbly organised by Helen Todd and her committee and we are most grateful for the work they put into achieving such a successful event.

Finally we had our end of year get together, trying a new format this year of drinks and nibbles instead of BBQ and drinks. This was a great success with approximately 80 members turning up – a significant increase on past years. Catering was provided by Carole Haines, Heather Boyd and Doff Kemp. They did a magnificent job with a great range and variety of edibles and we thank them for their efforts.

You will see an invitation in this issue to become an **Ambassador for the Friends**, manning our exhibit in the Conservatory for an hour or two whenever convenient, to chat with visitors. We have had a good response so far but still need a few more to get this off the ground.

I encourage members to think about this opportunity to serve the Friends and the community. No special skills or knowledge is necessary.

Enclosed with this *Wellingtonia* is the annual form for **nomination of Committee members**. This year we have one or two vacancies coming up. So this presents a good opportunity for members to nominate either themselves or another member to the Committee. It is always a good thing to have new faces around the table and new ideas.

Our AGM is scheduled for **Thursday, February 16** at the usual time and place as advertised in this issue.

We have an excellent guest speaker, **Richard Aitken**, who will be talking about Botanic Gardening in Portugal. I look forward to meeting you there.

Wishing you all the best for 2017,

Raoul Dixon, President.

Gardeners learn by trowel and error. ~Gardening Saying

Membership Report:

Current membership of the Friends now stands at 335, plus five Corporate Members.

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

Ro Bancroft, Scott Gillett, Anne Stewart, Robin Taylor, Sarah Smith, Lyn Broadstock and Christine Selkirk.

As always, we encourage members to invite friends and acquaintances to join the Friends. Membership leaflets are always available at the Conservatory.

Renewal notices have now gone out to those Friends whose membership expired in December 2016. I really appreciate prompt response to renewal to save having to follow up on members who have not renewed. If for any reason, you do not wish to renew, please advise us by return of the renewal form, or phone or email our office.

Raoul Dixon, Membership Officer



GUIDING NOTES:



"Creating Connections" was an appropriate title for the training program that I recently attended at the Gold Museum in Ballarat. The focus was on encouraging visitors to engage and be more active processing the information presented.

The challenge for guides is to encourage our visitors so that their learning is extended and deepened on our tours. Welcoming body language certainly helps and many other strategies were discussed. I am hoping that the Gold Museum /Sovereign Hill can run this training program for the Garden Guides next year.

As guides we have a responsibility to educate ourselves so that we can be an informed resource for our visitors but also need to have strategies to encourage more questioning and wondering so that the visitor experience is enhanced.

We now have 12 confident trained guides taking the Sunday morning tours and the arranged group tours. Our numbers are adequate for current demand but if interested in joining the guiding group please contact us as we do like to have a larger pool of volunteers to draw upon.

The guides ended their 2016 Guiding year with a luncheon at Trudie Dickenson's home. Feasting in lovely garden surroundings was a great way for us to complete the year. Thank you Trudie.

2017 Some changes: Jane Munro will be the contact person and organiser for all tours. Jane has been a great supporter of all our guiding activities and we are very appreciative that she has taken on this role. The conducting and organising of meetings will be shared amongst all guides – each month a different pair of guides will take on this task. Contributions to the Guiding section of *Wellingtonia* will be more widely sourced and guides encouraged to input here as well. I will continue to be the Guiding rep on the Friends Committee and hence remain as convenor of the Guiding Friends.



Jane Munro new Guides contact person

We will miss Beth and Raoul who are not continuing with guiding next year. Both set a benchmark for the group – positive, active and reliable with their contributions and both worked keenly for all our efforts to be a success. Good luck Beth with the Ambassador program you are now leading.

Thanks again to all the guides for their continued involvement and friendship.

Terry O'Brien Convenor Guiding Friends FBBG



HORTUS BOTANICUS: Amsterdam's famous botanical garden!

The *Hortus Botanicus* is one of the oldest botanical gardens in the world. As many as 4,000 plant species from across all continents grow in the garden and greenhouses. With its rich history the Hortus is a green oasis covering an area of only 1.2 hectares in the middle of a busy city.

de hortus
Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam - anno 1638



The garden established in 1638 by the city municipality as a herb garden providing medicinal plants for doctors and pharmacists. At that time herbs were of vital importance as the basis of medicines as the cities of Leiden and Utrecht experienced the plague epidemic (1634-1637) with thousands of victims.

In the 17th century the VOC (Dutch East India Company) ships also brought exotic ornamental plants and spices to the Hortus. A single coffee plant, *coffea arabica*, in the Hortus's collection served as the parent for the entire coffee culture in Central and South America. Also, two small potted oil palms brought back from Mauritius produced seeds after six years, and these were propagated throughout all of South-East Asia, providing a major source of revenue in the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia.



The present design (dating from 1863) is characteristic of the Romantic Movement – curving paths and round shapes are supposed to make the visitor forget the surrounding city.

There are now more than 50 old and rare

trees in the garden, and in the collection are trees and plants which are on the endangered list.

People come from all over the world to visit the Hortus to study plants and plant history, admire the butterflies and to experience other climates. You can visit exhibitions, go to concerts or just sit quietly to read a book in the gardens. The cafe serves various lunch dishes made from organic ingredients and there is a gift shop too!



Sandie de Groot, member of the Friends Guides Group, visited Amsterdam and the Hortus recently.

VERY IMPORTANT MATTERS FOR YOU....

FREE!

FRIENDS OF THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Inc. will be held on **Thursday, February 16, 2017** in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, commencing at **10.00 a.m.**

Business to be conducted:

1. Presentation of reports of activities for 2016,
2. Election of Committee for 2017.
3. Any other general business.

This will be followed by a General Meeting when we will enjoy a talk by **Richard Aitken** on *Botanic Gardening in Portugal* (see separate notice and outline of Richard's presentation, page 9).
Raoul Dixon, President

Dalvui - a grand Guilfoyle garden

Driving up the long poplar-lined driveway to Dalvui for the first time brings to mind those BBC-period dramas where rattly old coaches pull up outside large mansions and wide-eyed men and women emerge, gasping at their surroundings.

Dalvui is a grand house with a wonderful garden to match. The garden was designed by William Guilfoyle whose work is all over the south-west in many of our botanic gardens as well as several private ones. This one bears many of his hallmarks - paths disappear behind trees, garden beds are bordered by hedges and other plants, and there's a beautiful use of different colours and foliage.

Today, Dalvui is the home of Pam Habersberger, and together with her husband they've been opening the garden up as part of the **Open Garden Scheme** for many years.

The garden is located at 431 McKinnons Bridge Rd, Noorat (just near Terang). Our tour will be on Wednesday, April 26. The tour will include a visit to the **Camperdown Botanical Gardens** and a tour of another significant and historic garden which cannot be named yet!

Interested in going along? Please register your interest with the office (**George Longley Building 03 5342 9354** Email: info@fbbg.org.au) to that we can contact you directly once final costs, etc. are known.

APRIL TOUR!



EVENTS: REPORT ON OUR EXCURSION TO KYNETON AND DISTRICT

On Wednesday, 19 October 41 Friends and guests set out for a most interesting and varied day of garden visits. The previous weeks had been very wet and so the countryside was beautifully green. However, we were fortunate in having a fine day.



Our first stop was at the **Spring Hill Nursery** in Tylden. This is a large nursery, sub-divided into different areas by plant type. There is a great range of plants, many not seen in other nurseries, and numerous purchases were made. A number of people chose to enjoy their morning tea strolling around the lovely garden which surrounds the residence.

We moved on through attractive countryside to **"Willowbrook Gardens"** just out of Kyneton. We had been scheduled to go to "Bringalbit" but the extremely wet conditions there precluded visits, so at very short notice Pam and Rob Inglis opened their garden and made us very welcome. They moved from the Geelong area a few years ago



and are in the process of both restoring and extending the garden. Pam has been a volunteer at the rose garden at Werribee Park for a long time and is now creating a new rose garden, among other projects.

We were able to enjoy our lunch on their covered terrace where tables and chairs had been set up for us, and we had beautiful sunshine! Pam even served freshly made scones.

After lunch we moved on to the **Kyneton Botanical Gardens** where we were met by members of the Friends group. Barry Murphy guided us around the gardens, which date from 1858. They have many magnificent old specimen trees, 17 of which are listed by the National Trust of Australia, and there is a rotunda in keeping with the style of the gardens. At the end of our walk we were presented with a seedling of the rare oak *Quercus Cornelius-mulleri*, commonly known as Muller's Oak. It grows to about 3 metres

in height in its home State of California and is only represented in eight Botanic Gardens or Arboreta around the world.

An afternoon break was taken in the town of Kyneton, where people chose between an inspection of the lovely old bluestone buildings, shopping or coffee.

Our final stop for the day was at the **Malmsbury Botanic Gardens**, again dating from the 1850's. We were met once again by Gardens Friends and guided around their collection of old specimen trees. A feature of these gardens is the ornamental lake with its central island, which must be a welcome sight on hot summer days.



After a long, cold, wet winter we all enjoyed getting out and about the various gardens, and thanks are due to the organisers and those who hosted us.

Ann Reynolds

Ballarat Botanical Gardens Redevelopment Project Group Report

The Friends are all passionate about the well-being of our wonderful Botanical Gardens presumably a prime reason to belong to the Friends. The FBBG Project Group has been working steadfastly with the City of Ballarat (COB) to achieve this aim.

Submission Regional Development Victoria: In May this year (seven months ago!) the Project Group spent many hours working with a COB contracted business consultant from Melbourne to produce a submission for presentation to *Regional Development Victoria* and subsequently to be submitted to other sources for funding.

This convincing document had **tourism benefit** to Ballarat at the heart of the thrust.

The second underlying, fundamental benefit was **Community Wellbeing**, through Education, Interpretation and Influence of our green spaces on physical and psychological health.

This document remains unrepresented after six months and is now in line with several other submissions deemed maybe more important than the Gardens submission.

We are now being told we may not be successful.

There is much publicised evidence of the value to the community in Garden Tourism worldwide.

It is suggested that this submission be submitted as a Friends proposal with COB as the funding partner. The project already being in part funded by COB (\$1.4m) and the FBBG.

The Fernery Redevelopment has been a Friends concern and passionate desire to see The Fernery completed. Considerable funds have been contributed and have accumulated towards this aim over the past 20 years. It will be presented at the FBBG Annual General Meeting in February that the Friends should resolve to make the

accumulated Fernery Funds available for stage 1 of the project, and that appropriate recognition of the Friends is made.

At this point the Architects have been requested to produce a suitably valuable plan for stage 1 of a possible 3 stage project. The cost of which would be considerably higher than if the whole could be commenced. (*See below*)

The proposed scope of stage 1 works will be:

- Rock Grotto
- Large portion of the Forest Walk
- Extruded detailed footings
- Portion of the perimeter screens
- Demolition of the existing Fernery
- Entry statements on the North, South, East and Western entries.

Gardens and Lake Masterplan:

Members will be well aware of the Gardens and Lake Masterplan currently being reviewed. The FBBG made a one page submission to this plan and in January the FBBG committee will work to compile a more detailed application.

It is suggested that the FBBG representing the community of interested citizens make application to COB that a firm irrevocable policy for The Gardens Precinct, be set in place for *'any development within The Gardens to be relevant and restricted'* that is the area originally Gazetted between Gregory and Carlton Streets and to the Lake Wendouree Foreshore.

Gatekeeper's Cottage:

The Gatekeeper's Cottage is presently located at 1414 Gregory Street. Two and a half years ago this property was put on the market and brought to the attention of the FBBG.

The Friends have supported relocation of the cottage to the Gardens from that time. It is the firm desire also of the

'...document remains unrepresented after six months we may not be successful.'

Continues next page....



Gardens Redevelopment Project Group Report continued

present owners that the cottage be returned and they have actively worked to achieve this aim.

Following three unsuccessful representations to Council from FBBG to achieve the relocation, the FBBG have made a further application to the newly elected COB Council to have the reinstatement of the Cottage to the Gardens returned to Council Agenda.

This original Gatekeeper's cottage would facilitate and accommodate the Educational and Interpretation requirements of an authentic Botanical Garden, and align with the current Fernery Redevelopment and achieve a tourism goal as well.

It is recognised that the cottage would require considerable renovation and extension. In communication with Heritage Victoria, John Hawker has indicated that the proposal is suitable for the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, subject to working through the details required under permit.

COB Council has now resolved to seek a further report in relation to the cottage. It is anticipated that the report will go to the January Council meeting for a resolution of the final position.

LIFE IS SUSTAINED BY PLANTS!

Elizabeth Gilfillan
Friends Ballarat Botanical Gardens
Redevelopment Convenor

Australian National Botanic Gardens' New Conservatory in Canberra

While we are striving to cope with our Ballarat redevelopment, there are high aspirations for the **Australian National Botanic Gardens' (ANBG) Ian Potter National Conservatory**.

The project's budget is \$6M, of which \$4.5M is contributed by the Commonwealth government and \$1.5M comes as a philanthropic donation from the Ian Potter Foundation.

If you are expecting your typical Conservatory with masses of glass, you are in for a surprise. Canberra's cold, dry climate would present a major challenge to such a design for a tropical enclosure.

Instead, you will encounter a structure over 15 meters in height, made of concrete walls clad in polycarbonate that provides a translucent 'shell' that will also feature special night lighting – a shimmering, 'hovering cube' set among the Garden. Hopefully work will start mid-2017.



Artist's impression of the 'floating cube'

Well done Canberra!

Australian Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens. www.friendsbotanicgardens.org

We are all part of a bigger picture. The Association (AABFG) connects and supports Friends Groups all over Australia and New Zealand.

It is a great experience and pleasure to be part of this organisation, the benefits are many and some intangible. Connecting and corresponding with like minds to learn, inspire and share can only help us all to grow.

In November I was fortunate to represent The Friends at the Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) AGM in Sydney and also had a meeting with Friends of Sydney, Marketing and Membership Manager. It has been a huge year in Sydney as the Gardens celebrate 200 years of existence.

Next year the Association, Annual General Meeting will be held in Canberra on May 20. There will be a guest speaker, lunch and a tour of the Garden. It will be a great opportunity to experience the Australian National Botanic Garden first hand, maybe see more that the Capital has to offer and maybe visit the wonderful National Arboretum in its infant stage, or combine the visit with a trip to further destinations.

Hopefully some Ballarat members will join us there.

Raoul has mentioned the exciting Children's Education programme "seeding the Future" that is proposed in Ballarat and supported by our Friends, over the next three years. In her Grant application Angela Campbell from Federation University has quoted the importance of the connecting networks in her evidence of collaboration report. All these efforts help to make things happen.

Elizabeth Gilfillan

Events:

We have had a busy year once again with our catering and our trips to Botanic Gardens and other venues. Thank you to all have helped in any way with our Hospitality and Events. Your help is precious and greatly appreciated.

The Excursion to Kyneton was enjoyed by all. Unfortunately a last minute cancellation of the visit to *Bringalbit* meant finding a new garden to visit and a Nursery visit was arranged as well.

Thank you to Helen Vincent for organising morning tea and Lorraine Powell for being

the Bus co-ordinator for us. Also thank you to Beth and Raoul for all their assistance on the day.

PEONY FARM: Due to a 700metre walk (this was only mentioned in the last email from the Farm) from the car park to the Farm it was decided to inform Members the car pool would be cancelled and all members were given information of three Peony Farms they could visit instead.

CHRISTMAS NIBBLES AND DRINKS: Over 60 members attended our Christmas Celebration. Thank you to Heather Boyd

and all others who helped to make this event a success.

EVENTS: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. February 16, 2017. Richard Aitken will be our Guest Speaker. He will speak on the Botanic Gardens of Portugal. (See p. 9)

AUTUMN BUS TOUR. A tour to two Gardens in the Western District (see above) and a visit to the Camperdown Botanic Gardens. Wednesday 26 April, 2017.

Further information on this and other events will be in our Autumn Newsletter late March. **Carole Haines, Convenor**



FROM TIM ENTWISLE'S BLOG

Tuesday, 20 December 2016

The unappetising Capeweed



If you are an Australian, your first reaction to this image is likely to be one of disgust and frustration. **Capeweed** is an irritating incursion into many a suburban lawn, and an expensive - and most would consider an unattractive - weed of crop and grazing land. Thankfully it should fade from view in our country by Christmas Day.

On the other hand, in its native homeland of South Africa, *Arctotheca calendula* is considered a 'versatile ground cover that can be used in a garden for holding soil and for a colourful display'. That it probably does, in Victoria, and much of the rest of the world, as well.

If you look beyond the weed designation you'll notice a plant with incised, lyre-shaped leaves, each gently toothed and mildly hairy. The underneath of each leaf is softly hairy, what we call **tomentose**.

There are four or five species of *Arctotheca*, all from South Africa and Mozambique, with three of them naturalised in Australia and in Victoria. In VicFlora, Capeweed is described as a 'widespread weed of lawns, cultivated areas, pasture and other disturbed sites'. It has a similar distribution, I gather, in all southern Australian States, with the earliest reports from the far south-west, near Albany, in 1834.

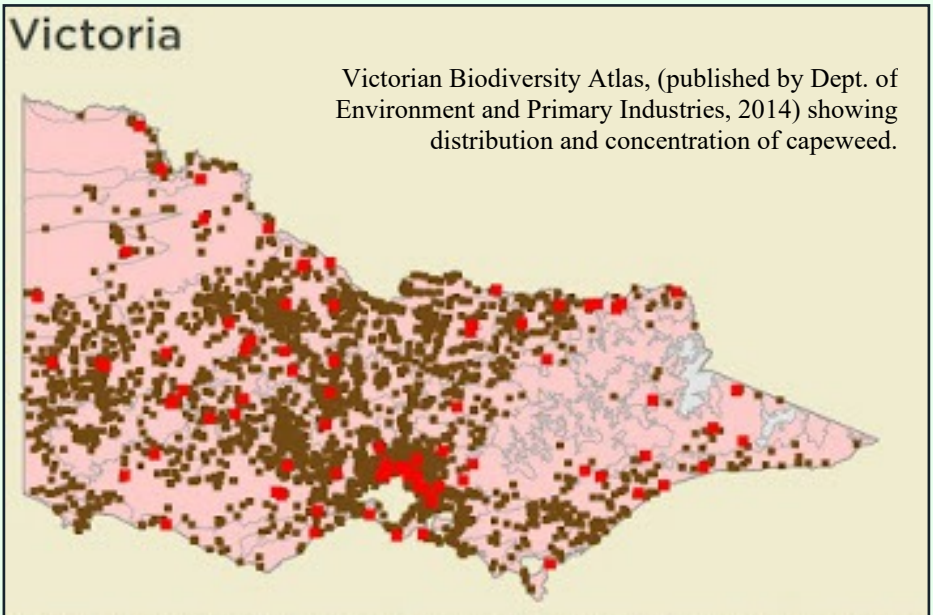
In South Africa it spreads by overground stems called 'stolons' or runners, and by seed. In North America, Capeweed is usually sterile but spreads readily through runners - rarely, the plants are fertile and then considered 'highly invasive'. Here in Australia it depends, apparently, on the particular variant and the location.

While clearly all over the place, and all over the globe, it seems to still have some potential to expand its range. In California it is considered a weed 'with the potential to spread explosively' and in Italy, in early 2016, it was announced as an 'emerging invasive species'.

So it is here to stay. It can displace native species, sometimes already under threat of extinction, but in lawns and disturbed sites near towns and cities, well perhaps it's best to learn to like it a little.

Bees and apiarists like it. While it can be eaten by stock, young plants may poison and a high intake will taint milk. Sadly you can't eat it: Capeweed is generally considered a poor and potentially disagreeable food for humans.

(more from Tim at: <http://talkingplants.blogspot.com.au/>)



Botanical Art Update January 2017

Botanical illustration:

Gain inspiration for your own art by associating with like-minded individuals who share a passion for botanical art.

All artists, from beginners to advanced, are invited to join our group of budding artists as they journey into the botanical world.

In 2017 sessions, participants will be guided through a different group project each week after which artists may choose to work on their own subject.

These sessions are held every Monday between 10am – 3pm, during school terms.

For more information on dates, costs and to join the Friends, please contact, Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens;
Email: info@fbbg.org.au

Workshops:

We continually strive to improve our skills as artists and will be holding workshops during Terms 2 and 3.

For details of Botanical Illustration course outline and Workshops,

Contact;

Valerie Richards,

Convenor, Botanical Art Group.

Email, - valerierichards@iprimus.com.au

Phone, - 5341 2649

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

Ambassadors

Refer to page 12 for further information.

These local nurseries offer discounts to members of the Friends:

- Formosa Gardens
- Grow Master
- Spot on Pots
- Blackwood Ridge

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GARDENS?

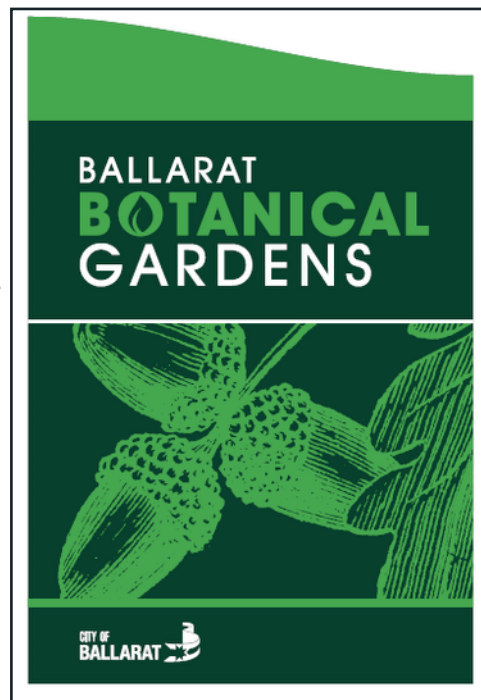
Curator's report: Over the last few months there have been many events held within the gardens and around the lake. In December the Summer Twilight concert was held in Fairyland, the Ballarat Ironman was held followed later with carols by candlelight.

During January three concerts are being held in the North Gardens, whilst Summer Sundays this year is being held on the 8 and 22 of January on the main lawn. Each of these events brings many people to the gardens precinct.

The botanical garden staff have been busy planting the summer garden display, installing a new display in the Conservatory and getting the begonias ready for their annual display.

In the New Year the current Ballarat Botanical Gardens signage will be replaced by a package of 58 new signs. The new entry, interpretive and directional signage incorporates the gardens logo as shown at right. This logo will also be seen on the staff uniforms as old uniforms are gradually replaced.

An unfortunate outcome of the above average rainfall received this spring has been the death of a number of young *Cedrus deodara* (*deodar cedar*, *Himalayan cedar*), which had been planted opposite the Ballarat Life Style and Aquatic Centre. The trees had succumbed to wet feet and were removed early December.



Peter Marquand, Curator

Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it. ~Author Unknown

Gardens Education and Collections:

New full-time Education Officer: The current Education and Plant Collections role has been divided into two! We welcome our **new full-time Gardens Education Officer, Christian** to the Botanical Gardens Team. Please do say 'hi and welcome!' If you see a new face around.

I am excited to move to a new **Plant Collections Officer role** and look forward to focusing full time on record keeping, plant databases & plant collections research. I would really like to thank Julie, Jenny and the Botanikids team for the wonderful time working together over the past two years. It was a lot of fun and I have learnt so much!

Work Inspiration program a success: In October, the Parks and Gardens team, and Highlands Local

Activities included 'hands on' experience in the Ballarat Botanical gardens and nursery, floral



display design and building, apprenticeships, Federation University, identifying trees, horticultural tours and talking to ten of the experts we have in the City Parks and Gardens team. The three day 'taster' format allows more students to participate in horticultural work experience than previous models, and enabled

us to show more aspects of Horticulture as a career.

The Sensory Garden update: The Sensory Garden has been replanted! In a fantastic team effort, the 'Western Bedders' and the gardeners planted over 220 plants altogether!



The 'Western bedders' have also enthusiastically taken on board a caretaker role for the ongoing maintenance of this area.

The project collaboration continued with the 'Growing Friends' donation of plants and Joy O'Brien's (Friend's Engraving) assistance in creating 52 new labels! In a first for our Botanical Gardens, we will also trial **braille stickers on the sensory garden plant labels** for our blind visitors!



Donna Thomas, Plant Collection Officer



Learning and Employment Network, held its second Horticultural 'Work Inspirations' work experience program. Eight students from five local secondary schools (Ballarat High School, Ballarat Secondary College, Phoenix College, Damascus College, and Ballarat Specialist School) participated in the program.



GUEST SPEAKER, for the FRIENDS AGM, Thursday February 16, 2017

AGM
2017

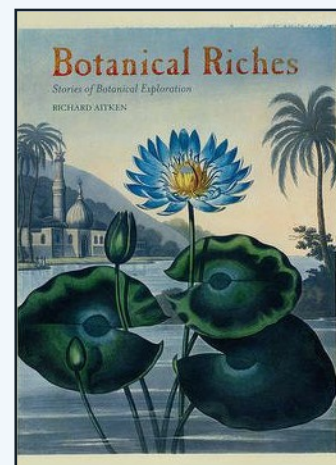
Richard Aitken: 'Botanic gardening in Portugal'

Following our AGM Richard Aitken will share his recent experiences exploring the gardens and botanic gardening traditions of Portugal. These little known but beautiful gardens share a climate and more than a few plants with our own.

Historian, writer, and curator, Richard Aitken's books on garden history have become essential reading for anyone with an interest in horticulture, history, and design. These include *Gardenesque*, *Botanical Riches*, *The Garden of Ideas*, *Cultivating Modernism*, and *Planting Dreams*. He has curated many exhibitions including *Planting Dreams: shaping Australian gardens* for the State Library of New South Wales in 2016 and was a contributor to the Art Gallery of Ballarat's *Capturing Flora* exhibition in 2012. He is also a past co-editor of *Australian Garden History*, quarterly journal of the Australian garden History Society.

Richard's talk today derives from a lecture he presented at a colloquium in Lisbon in July 2014 at the National Library of Portugal which accompanied an exhibition of rare gardening books, as well as his experiences of Portuguese gardens visited during the last three years. He has recently written on the Portuguese garden Quinta da Regaleira, in Sintra, (pictured right) for *The Gardener's Garden* (published by Phaidon in 2014) and on links between gardens of Portugal and Australia for the peer-reviewed journal *Gardens and Landscapes of Portugal*.

Richard maintains an ongoing interest in the transfer and development of ideas underpinning the history of garden making in Australia but his current project is a commissioned history of Dulux focusing on the history of home improvement in Australia.



Monserrate Palace, Sintra

BotaniKIDS

"The Educating Friends: BotaniKIDS held their final session for the year with a special Christmas theme, in early December.

The *Christmas Fun Morning* for under fives was held on Tuesday December 13. Adults and children were encouraged to wear festive gear and to join in doing Christmas nature crafts, songs, a Christmas story and a few other surprises



Julie Bradby provides stern instructions!

(which) capped off a wonderful morning for the youngsters.

BotaniKIDS was established to support, encourage and resource the

young (and their grown ups) to explore, enjoy, appreciate and learn in and about the Gardens.

The group utilises the natural beauty and cultural aspects of the Gardens precinct to provide an exciting array of opportunities that enriches the experience and learning possibilities."

(Reprinted with permission from 'The Miner')

THANK
YOU!

The Growing Friends had a very successful year culminating with good sales at Springfest. Our little nursery is becoming more known to the public, resulting in increased sales. Thanks to all my helpers, could not do without them. a reminder that from January to April the Friends nursery is open on the **second and fourth Sunday** of the month as well as the usual Tuesday afternoons.

Yvonne Curbach, Convenor Growing Friends

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS – ANOTHER COMPLAINT

SIR, - Allow me to substantiate Mr J. Jones' complaint regarding the incivility of the employees at the Botanical Gardens. A few Sundays ago, while strolling through the grounds, I stepped from the footpath on to a barren plot at the rear of the aviary, in order to inspect a queer complication of pipes and ironwork erected for some mysterious purpose, probably to supply the monkey with a cold bath. While pursuing my investigations, I heard sundry violent expressions, coupled with a remark that "there was room enough on the path without walking on the beds." From the offensive and brutal manner in which the words were delivered, I presumed at first they were directed to some stray dog, but on their being repeated with increased vehemence, I found they were intended for my especial benefit, and proceeded from an individual whose province seemed to be mounting guard over the aviary, and bullying any visitor that dared to approach. I did not think I committed any heinous offence in venturing upon a piece of wasteland in order to contemplate an old water tank, but from the obtuse and dogged physiognomy of the individual aforesaid, it appeared quite hopeless to argue the point with him, so I had to swallow the insult and walk away. I am aware the conservators of a public garden have their patience tried to some extent in the performance of their duties, but it must be remembered that as servants of the public they have no right to indulge in incivility or intimidation. As for my ill-favoured friend, I may remind him that instead of ejecting visitors from the gardens, his boorish discourtesy may probably cause him to be ejected from a post that he is clearly unfitted to occupy.

Yours obediently,
Lydiard Street,
14th December.
A.T.M

While the letter details the vexation of a visitor who was roundly 'told off' by a staff member, it is also the first recorded reference to the Gardens having a monkey on display. In the records we discover that several years later, the Monkey House was broken into and the thermometer, used daily to record the weather was stolen.
Lorraine Powell, History Group Convenor

We come from the earth; we return to the earth; and in between we garden. ~ Author Unknown

Early Buildings at Ballarat Botanical Gardens

The minutes/reports of the Ballarat Botanic Garden Committee during the early years (1860-1864) present an image of a dynamic committee, engaged not only in the laying out and planting of the gardens, but also with the construction of necessary buildings and other 'built structures'.

Throughout the years 1860 to 1864, there were many references to fences, gates, tree guards, and even a shed being constructed. On 8 April 1860, Mr Longley was paid £8 (eight pounds) for the "purchase of building materials for the gardener's house". There is no further reference to the gardener's house, so it is unclear from the minutes whether this was an actual house or perhaps a summer house or potting shed. In April, 1862, it was reported that the Summer House was to be covered in "under the slats".

By June, 1863, it was decided that Henry R. Caselli, a Ballarat architect, would be instructed to prepare designs for two lodges. Caselli was a very well-known architect being responsible for the City and Town Fire Brigade buildings, The Mitchell Buildings (now Myers), Ballarat College, Ballarat Orphan Asylum, and many churches. By July, a tender for £334/18/- from Mr

Maynes was accepted for the building of the lodges – to be constructed of wood, and plastered.

At the same meeting in June, George Longley, the gardener, was requested to prepare plans for a propagating house for the nursery. In July the Committee invited tenders for the propagation house, however there is no further information about whether any tenders were received.

In November, 1863, it was reported "That Mr Caselli be requested to prepare plans for two common privies and that the gardeners get two holes dug and have tubs placed therein and that the present contractors be requested to give a price for the erection of the privies." Mr Mayne's tender of £3/12/- each for two closets was accepted. Also in November, the tender of Irving Glover and Co for Gates of £135/7/7 (the second lowest tender) was accepted.

The Committee received four applications for lodge keeper, with Mr Cave being selected.

On November 10, 1863, it was moved that the following members of the committee – Appleby, Elliot and

Nichols - be appointed to meet Mr Cave and arrange the terms of his appointment as Lodge Keeper. It was also moved that the Ballarat Water Commission be requested to apportion a sum annually to pay the 'man at the lodge to look after and act as swamp ranger'. However, in December, it was reported that Mr Cave wanted a few days to consider the offer. The other Lodge was known as Mr Longley's Lodge.

On September 5, 1864 Samuel Baird, the Town Surveyor, was requested to submit his plans for the Rotunda and Summer Arbors.

At the Committee's next meeting, the design of the rotunda was adopted. His plans for the Swings Landing Stage Privies and for the Botanic Reserve were later submitted, adopted and he was authorised to call for Tenders.

This concluded the mention of building plans during the period 1860 to 1864.

Source: 1860-1864 Ballarat Botanic Garden Committee Minutes (limited editing of quotes) courtesy of Ballarat Historical Society Inc.

Contributed by Friends History Group

BALLARAT Gardens in Spring

Thank you to all who supported the Ninth Annual Ballarat Gardens in Spring. Despite the dismal weather visitor numbers were still impressive, receiving positive comments from all events over the weekend.

This year's **Speakers Luncheon** was again inspiring, educational and fun with our three speakers; **Simon Rickard, Karen Sutherland and Claire Takacs** providing their recounts of personal journeys of experiences, insights and



Guest Speakers (Karen, Simon & Claire) enjoying lunch in the gardens.

philosophies into all things gardening, design and plants. Many guests were able to meet up with them during lunch and ask questions. The day weather wise was perfect with a delicious lunch enjoyed by all in the colourful Conservatory with the spectacular Schizanthus display being the perfect backdrop (see photo below).



The **open gardens** on the Saturday and Sunday again proved to be very popular, with visitor numbers impressive even though the weather was bleak and rainy. Gardens received between 400-550 each on the Saturday and approximately 300 each on the Sunday – a fabulous response to our increased publicity and popularity.

It was great that the gardens' owners put on special touches with music, coffee, bric-a-brac sales not to mention Edward opening his art studio at Yoothamurra.



Volunteers (Elizabeth, Cherry and Helen) help in the luncheon setting up.

The new website certainly was successful in terms of clear and concise information and social media - Facebook and Instagram proved extremely beneficial together with *The Ballarat Courier*, 3AW and of course our information brochure.

Special thanks to our **Open Garden Owners** for their willingness to open their gardens, hard work and commitment: **Christine and Robert, Leanne and Craig, Susan and Edward, and Samantha and Greg.**

Thanks also to our **Sponsors** who contributed to our event so generously please support them where possible:-



Open garden entry volunteers - Carmel Flynn and Kerrie Keen



Guests at Speakers Luncheon Tracey Fraser & Jodi Valpied

- Spot on Pots and Nursery– tomato Seedlings for Guests at the luncheon
- Central Highlands Water – raffle
- The Upholstery Gallery – raffle
- Bunnings – raffle
- Formosa Gardens Nursery and Cafe - raffle
- Jon Paley - Photographer
- Michael Unwin Wines – luncheon wine
- Gull & Company Real Estate - Signage
- Ballarat Regional Tourism – Gold Bus for Melbourne visitors
- City of Ballarat – Website support

A special mention to **Lorraine Powell and Trudie Dickinson** for hosting the Melbourne Visitor Coach tour to the open gardens on the Sunday – guests were delighted to receive first hand detail, stories and history not only about the gardens but Ballarat in general.

Carole Haines and Beth Dixon for setting up for morning tea, **Jane Monro** for her delicious homemade biscuits and all who assisted with the wrap up after the luncheon and garden openings. Special thanks to **Raoul Dixon** for his overall calmness and IT assistance. It is also great to have Sue and Bruce in the GLB for support together with the COB staff and the RCC.

Thanks also to all the **volunteers** who assisted at the Open Garden either on the entry gate or assisting the garden owners in preparation – for without you this event would not be possible.

We are again delighted to advise a profit margin was made from the event along with a contribution from each garden owner returning to the Friends for the Fernery Redevelopment.

The committee is already into the planning for our **special Tenth Year** – with some Guest Speakers and Gardens already secured. An email was circulated for feedback on the event and many fabulous suggestions and comments have been received which we will take on board.

Best wishes to all readers of Wellingtonia. We hope you can spend some time in your garden.

Helen Todd, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Cherry Schultz & Wendy Taylor (Committee, Ballarat Gardens in Spring 2016)

Due too space limitations, a number of contributions including Green Thumb's 'Garden Cuttings' have had to be held over this edition. Stay tuned! Ed.

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2016

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

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

Tel. George Longley Building 03 5342 9354

2016 FBBG Committee* and Areas of Responsibility

POSITION	NAME	POSITION	NAME	<i>* Please note: 2017 AGM will be held on February 16,</i>
President & Membership	Raoul Dixon	History Convener	Lorraine Powell	
Vice president	John King	Hospitality	Carole Haines	
Secretary	Susan Rattray	General member	Cherry Schultz	
Treasurer	Bruce Holland	General member	Helen Vincent	
Convenor Fernery Project	Elizabeth Gilfillan	Western Bed Convener	Bill O'Driscoll	
Education Convener	Julie Bradby	General member	Kathleen Hobson	
General member	Doff Kemp	Newsletter Editor	Michael Bird	
Growers Convener	Yvonne Curbach	Botanical Art Convener	Valerie Richards (non-Committee)	
Guides Convener	Terry O'Brien	Engraving Convener	Joy O'Brien (non-Committee)	

Do you like chatting to people?



If so we have the ideal opportunity for you.

Join our team of Ambassadors. The main purpose of this new and exciting role is simply to be there to chat to visitors about the Friends and the Gardens in general terms.

No detailed knowledge is necessary; information kits will be supplied to help you with any questions that might be asked.

All you need to do is sit in the Conservatory for an hour or two on weekends at times and dates to suit you.

If you would like further information, please contact Beth Dixon, who will be the coordinator of this project. Her contact details are: Phone 5335 9052 or mobile 0458 902 711 (home phone is best), or email to rdixon578@gmail.com.

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.

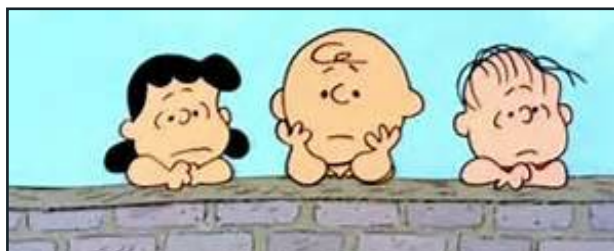
Educating Friends - 2nd Tuesday each month 10am

Plant Labelling - as required.

Coming up:

Our AGM is scheduled for **Thursday, February 16**

Autumn Tour to **Dalvui, 26 April**. Also going to **Camperdown Botanical Gardens** and a **mystery garden**. Please register your interest with the office (**George Longley Building 03 5342 9354**
Email: info@fbbg.org.au) so that we can contact you directly once final costs, etc. are known.



No BotaniKIDS events before April
WATCH THIS SPACE NEXT EDITION!



Photo credits: Thanks to Raoul and Beth Dixon, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Lorraine Powell, Nonnie Tennant, Helen Vincent, Peter Marquand, Donna Thomas, Charles Schultz 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 Autumn Wellingtonia 2017 are due by mid-March please.**
Michael Bird, Editor. **Editorial Committee:** Raoul Dixon, Elizabeth Gilfillan, Helen Vincent and Michael Bird.

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