

Wellingtonia

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NEWSLETTER SPRING 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

What a great Spring we are fortunate to be enjoying, rain, sunshine, growth and beauty.

In July The Friends hosted *The Ballarat Foundation Telstra Countrywide Grant Awards* in The George Longley Building. There were seven awards presented and we were thrilled to be the major recipient of \$4000. This will be used for essential equipment needed to archive our treasured documented history. It will be named the **Roy Mosman Archive**.



The *Garden Clubs of Australia* delegates enjoyed a memorable visit to Ballarat and were impressed by a variety of gardens and Heritage in the region. Sincere thanks to Mike Sorrell for his tireless work planning and implementing this happy event.

In September the committee unanimously decided it was necessary for an *Extra-Ordinary General Meeting*, to discuss changes in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre and the Conservatory. It appears there may be some favourable outcomes.

I would like to convey my appreciation to the Friends members for their resounding support in our endeavours of advocacy for the beautiful heritage Botanical Gardens. A letter of concerns was recently sent to The Mayor & Councillors which is being dealt with by City of Ballarat Infrastructure.

The Friends have prepared a *Memorandum of Understanding* which is now with COB for their input.

Hopefully this will all be behind us soon and we can move ahead with our support and contribution to our wonderful Botanic Garden.

The Fernery project will be re-named the **Ballarat Botanical Gardens Redevelopment Project**. In addition, "Respecting our Heritage" Landscape Architect Andrew Laidlaw from Royal Melbourne

Continued next column.

Botanic Garden has been approached to consult on the internal and immediate landscaping of the Fernery. Still in the concept stage, the project is moving along slowly with a lot of work yet to be done.

Those members who have elected to receive their Newsletters by email might be wondering why they are receiving them in the post. The reason for this is that some had difficulties with the email system, and we need to ensure everyone gets their newsletter. So we are now posting to all.

It is going to be a busy time ahead with much to be enjoyed and you can read all about it in the pages ahead.

I am ever grateful to the Committee and the Friends Groups who enthusiastically achieve so much in so many ways.

This year is the 20th Anniversary of our National Association of Friends of Botanical Gardens. This significant milestone will be celebrated with a special edition of *Campsis*, the Association newsletter. This will be available online in late November.

It is hard to believe that this will be the last newsletter before Christmas. I look forward to seeing you all at the events ahead and take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and beautiful Festive Season.

Elizabeth Gilfillan

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Guiding report

Terry O'Brien

Winter time is always a quieter time for guiding. Many of the guides have been away seeking warmer climes but now that the Sunday morning springtime 11 am tours have started and large group bookings are coming in it is busy times again for the guides.

The Prime Ministers' Brochure

The guides produced a brochure way back in January on the Prime Ministers Avenue but its printing was delayed as we waited for the installation of Julia Gillard's bronze bust and the election outcome. Now that the political scene has been settled we hope to have our new brochure out soon.

Guides Meetings

Guides are currently giving their attention to the Western Bed and developing short presentations to improve our knowledge of this section. Jane Munro's presentation on the White Bed got us started at our July meeting and we will have more at our October and November meetings. Wendy Sandiford organised for David Glenn from Lambley to come to our June meeting. The information and insights shared and the tour were much appreciated.

David Grant (CoB) came to our September meeting and focused our attention on tree conservation. He also explained what is the underlying policy regarding new tree plantings in the gardens.

Touring With Terry: Bark beetle destruction

In August I spent some time exploring the national parks and wilderness areas of the Colorado Plateau in South West USA and appreciated seeing some of our treasured garden tree species in their natural habitat but also saddened and shocked at the destruction that the bark beetle is causing to so many of the pines.

Large areas of old dead pine stands was the scene I was confronted with. Massive outbreaks of the tiny winged bark beetle since the 1990's have killed millions of acres of Western North American pines, particularly Ponderosa, Lodgepole and Limber pine. Trees that are not growing vigorously due to old age and crowding and those stressed by drought are most likely to be attacked.

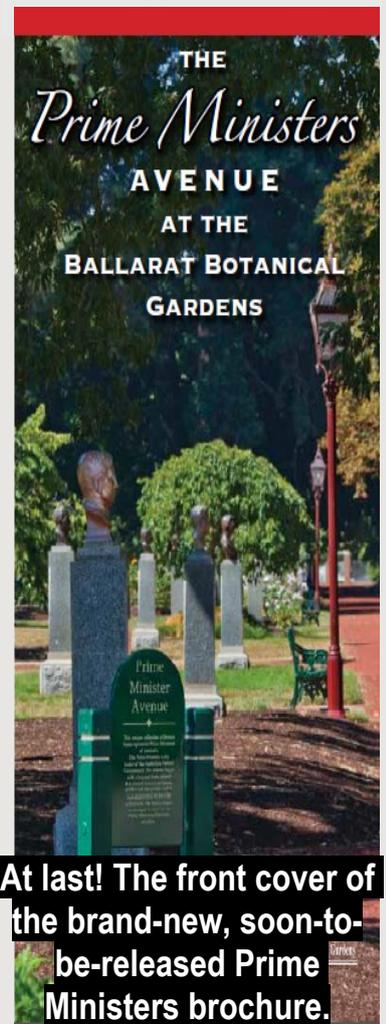


Dead Pines at Brian Head Peak, southern Utah

The persistence in recent times of drought conditions and also warmer winters has contributed to the pine beetle's advance. In the past the beetle has been kept in check by the low winter temperatures.

The amount of devastation varies but in Canada British Columbia it is reported that 710 million cubic metres of commercially valuable pine timber has been destroyed. That is more than half of all such pine in the province.

It is bleak in all respects.



Cont'd:

(Cont'd from previous page)

Imagine a landscape without big trees. Apart from timber loss there are ongoing impacts on forest management practices, the carbon cycle, water resources and wildfires.

The recent fires in Western USA had plenty of dead trees to feed the flames. Removing dead wood and thinning forests is expensive and resource intensive and currently there seems no easy solution to the problem.

Some experts are confident the forests will bounce back although in a changed form with changed biodiversity but this may be not in our lifetime. The picture of so many dead trees is a grim reminder for us all of the impacts we face with global climate change.

Terry O'Brien



Dead Trees at Brian Head Peak, southern Utah USA.



Beth Dixon guides a group of attentive visitors to the Gardens earlier this year



Arbor Day tree planting – Lorraine Powell gives a helping hand to Raoul Dixon

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER FOR FBBG MEMBERS!

Payments to FBBG are now available via eft too!

- Please use your surname and first initial as your id.
- Account name: *Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens*
- BSB 633 108
- Acc. Number: 125334615

DID YOU KNOW? There are still a number of seats available for the coach trip to Duneira, Macedon and Cameron Lodge. (Monday, Oct 28.)

Tel. Genevieve at the George Longley Room for more details and to make a booking.

CHRISTMAS ISN'T FAR AWAY — LOOKING FOR THAT UNIQUE GIFT?

Copies of "An Eden of Loveliness" are available from FBBG for \$40; Members \$35.

TRAVELLING TO LONDON'S KEW GARDENS



The 700 acres of Kew gardens grew out of the amalgamation of two neighbouring estates – Richmond Gardens (Capability Brown) and the original Kew Gardens. In 1772 Joseph Banks was invited to be the unofficial adviser but on his death the gardens declined. From 1841 with Sir William Hooker in charge it was resurrected and the Botanic garden and private gardens flourished again. Nursery trade grew – a worship of the exotic was secure.

Marianne North

At the Kew Gardens Marianne North's 832 paintings are exhibited in her specially built exhibition gallery. It contains paintings of 900 species of plants from all over the world. She actually suggested to William Hooker that she could provide the gallery in which to display her own work. The original plan of incorporating a tea house in the layout had been abandoned. Her works are displayed geographically in an overpowering, wildly vibrant and exotic exhibition that covers from the floor to the ceiling – not a space to spare.

North preferred her own company. She equipped herself with letters of introduction and, encouraged by Charles Darwin, she travelled to remote locations in pursuit of the exotic. To fulfil her ambitions and at a time of new trade routes, she actually travelled around the world twice in a different direction each time.

At the age of 25 she promised her dying mother that she would care for her father which she did for the next 15 years. Unlike her brother and sisters she never married. She had an apartment close to Chiswick Gardens and Kew Gardens that gave her the opportunity to develop her flower painting technique, to see exotic flora at its best and to meet William Hooker. She had the experience of several world trips with her parents and was able to capture exotic studies of plants having received lessons in flower painting from a Miss Van Fowinkle.

It was Robert Dowling who first introduced Marianne to the use of oils. The Art Gallery of Ballarat has a lovely, poignant painting of Robert Dowling's entitled 'Grandfathers Visit' that in 1866 was part of an Art Union raffle in Launceston. Notably, he was one of the first artists to be trained in Australia (Tasmania). He then returned to England to pursue his ambitions.

The flower studies were painted in their environmental settings. This style North suggested to Australian botanical artist Ellis Rowan at Mt Macedon in 1880. North's technique is strong and much heavier than the Botanicals to which we are accustomed. Oil paint allows the collection to be on permanent display. She developed a method so swift that she could complete a picture during the course of one day. She would start by making a rapid sketch in pen and ink on strong paper. Then she would paint the finished image in oil squeezed straight from the tube. Often these plants were being seen by the outside world for the very first time.

Georgiana Molloy

Interestingly I cannot help but link in another connection we in Australia have to Kew Gardens and the era of intrepid women travellers. Georgina Molloy was an amateur botanist who had first settled in Western Australia's Augusta in 1830. (This was the year in which Marianne North was born). Augusta was named in honour of Princess Augusta Sophia, the second daughter of King George III and Queen Charlotte. Their country palace still stands in Kew Gardens where you can wander through and imagine the sounds of their 15 children!

In the need to become self sufficient, life was hard for the first settlers in Western Australia. They were isolated, food supplies were irregular and shipping was erratic. For relief from her arduous life, Molloy started collecting indigenous flowers, pressing and mounting them in a *hortus siccus*. Most of her correspondence has been preserved.

The seeds from Mrs Molloy were sent to England and were noted by English enthusiasts including Joseph Paxton (Crystal Palace) and Dr Lindley (Secretary of the Horticultural Society). Some of the collection is retained at Kew Garden Herbarium.

One of the ways of ensuring safe travel of Molloy's seed collection was for her to pack them in pepper. Had she lived longer she may have added to her botanical fame, but soon after the birth of her sixth daughter she died at the family's next property at 'Fairlawn', Busselton. The grave is at Western Australia's second oldest stone church. It has a little rose window dedicated to Georgiana Molloy and under the church font the graves of Georgiana and her two children, who died in infancy, are laid. She herself was only 37, the age at which Marianne North's adventurous life was just beginning.

Kew Gardens are indeed a wonderful place, steeped in history, whose value can't be measured. Had it not been for family, flowers and football we may never have investigated these links between England and our homeland.

Geraldine Roberts

Friends clamouring to sign up to help prior to the Convention



Gardens Clubs Australia

- Ballarat Convention 2013

This event ended without any injuries or major disasters! Some 178 members of gardening clubs from all states enjoyed a range of tours and activities. Visits to Banongill, Brim Brim, Ercildoune and Lal Lal historic estates were highlights. A number of beautifully presented private gardens in and around Ballarat were visited, together with tours to Lambley and Misty Downs Nurseries.

The visit to the Ballarat Astronomical Observatory was an evening highlight, despite the weather preventing use of the array of marvelous instruments.

Staff of the Ballarat Trout Hatchery provided a most entertaining guided tour and demonstration of their work which has continued for more than 100 years. A full demonstration of operations at the Creswick Woollen Mills was not possible due to incomplete major works.

The GCA AGM lunch was very well attended, with the Ballarat and District Trotting Club providing a fine venue and meal. The Guest Speaker, Peter Freund, gave a stimulating talk on Gardening and Theatre.

Thanks to the ladies of Yendon Red Cross, Skipton Garden Club, Skipton Primary School Mothers' Club, and Creswick Garden Club for their thoroughly enjoyable catering.

Thanks also to Kate Shirley and the Ballarat East Community Mens' Shed for their considerable support.

Many Friends gave most invaluable support in a host of ways. Thank you all.

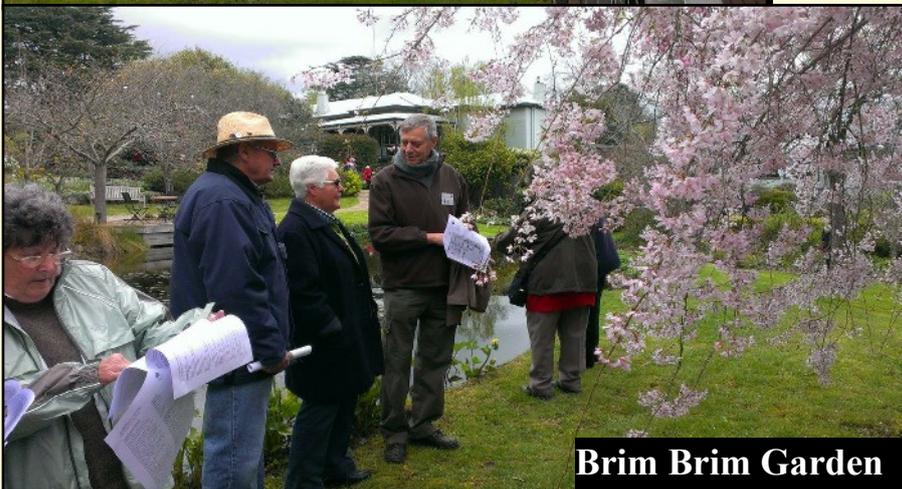
Mike Sorrell



Wet day at Lal Lal!



The Ridge Garden



Brim Brim Garden

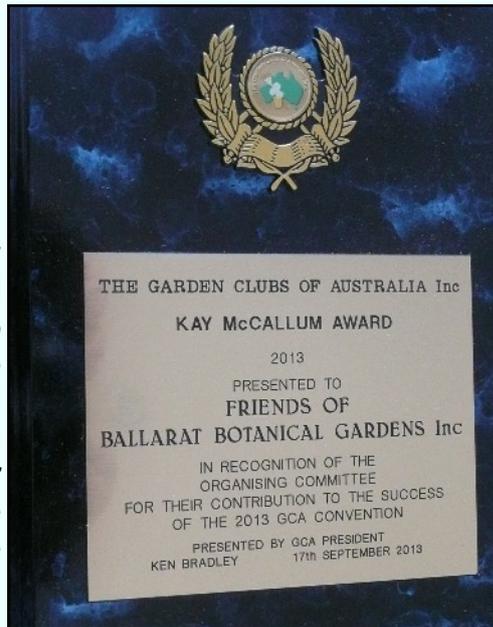


(Left) Ken Bradley, President of Garden Clubs Australia, presents Ballarat Convention Organiser and Friends member, Mike Sorrell, with the prestigious 'Kay McCallum Shield' at the recent A.G.M.

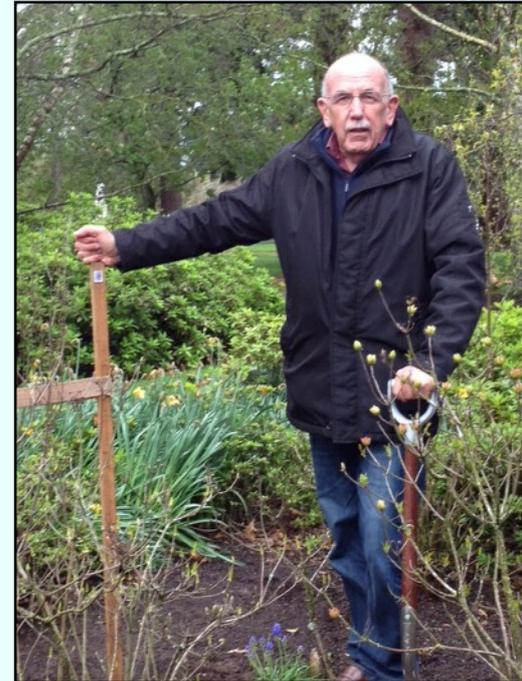
From the Gardens Clubs Convention



(Below) Tree planting ceremony by Australian President Ken Bradley.



(Right) The Kay McCallum Shield presented to Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens in recognition of their contribution to the success of the 2013 Convention.



BOTANICAL GARDENS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT -- PETER MARQUAND:

Over the last few weeks the Cacti and Succulent Society, Spinners and Weavers and Floral Art group have held their annual exhibitions in the Robert Clark Centre and Conservatory. Upcoming exhibitions are to be held by Australian Plant Society and Bonsai Society. In early October garden staff will install the always popular Schizanthus display.

On September 20 the first of four new drink stations located around the lake was unveiled by the Mayor and the CEO of Central Highland Water at St Pats Point.

In addition to the modern filtered water stations, heritage style drink fountains will be installed in the Botanical gardens precinct. The drink stations and fountains have been sponsored by Central Highlands Water.

Upcoming works in the gardens include the painting of the timber posts on the Wendouree Parade fence, footpath resurfacing, painting of seats and sign posts as well as alterations to the gates along Gillies Street.

Recently the Friends of the Gardens production and retail nursery area has had the stone surface replaced.



The Mayor of Ballarat and the CEO of Central Highland Water launch first new water station.

Education - BotaniKIDS Report:

Three words describe recent weeks! Busy, busy, busy !!!!

We have had great numbers at all our events over the last few months and now it seems we are developing quite a strong following among young families. Its lovely to see the same little faces appear at the door and they love to come to 'Kinder and School at the Gardens'!

The team in the Educating Group are often assisted by many others in the Friends as well as in other groups and we really love to see you even if it is just being there with us. The time spent with the families is a great opportunity to further pass on our message to the younger community that our Gardens are important and beautiful.

The organisation for the Great Big Gardens Play Day on 23rd October is coming along with the following partner organizations planning and supporting the day by providing activities for the children who attend. The groups are: CFA, Library, FOSH, Spinners and Weavers, St Peters Floral Group, Grammar Year 9, University of Ballarat, Ballarat Water Board 'Grow your Own Vegies', scarecrow activity, our own Play Paddock with *back to basics play*, our blackboards, Corangamite Water 'Investigations and Water Critters' and Craft Cottage. The Gardens Staff and Ballarat City Council are sponsoring the First Aid and Young Mother Services.

The area footprint of the day will be bounded by the Conservatory, Robert Clarke Horticultural Centre and courtyard, the area east of RCC including the Beaumont lawn, and, extensively in the North Gardens.

The theme of the day is **back to basics play** and we are calling the day *Just Imagine!*

Last year we had over 1000 children attending and this year judging by the level of interest numbers should be similar. Hence we need your help if at all possible. Please consider the following opportunities:

1. Joan Garner is in charge of the **food for the volunteers' lunches and refreshments** so if you can help please contact her and offer your help. We have over 150 volunteers and activity providers to keep happy! joangarner104@gmail.com
2. **BBQ** from 10.30 - 1 pm. cook and place sausages in trays in Robert Clarke Centre ovens to keep warm.
3. **Setting up Play Paddock**, signage, bunting, balloons between 8.00 am to 10.00 am
4. **Helping supervise** our Friends activities during the day in Play Paddock, nature play on lawn area east of RCC and Blackboards and chalk on North Gardens fences, 10-3 pm
5. **Helping on registration table** with timetables, maps and directions. 10-3 pm
6. **Hospitality:** helping, relieving volunteers and hosting 10-3 pm
7. **Packing up** 3-5 pm

Please contact me on julie@dbradby.net or contact the via info@fbbg.org.au if you can help by nominating an activity and time you can spare.

Note: if you do help you will be supplied with lots of smiles, lunch, endless cuppas and heaps of fun! Fruit and water will be available too!

Please save pantyhose, plastic juice bottles, tin cans from soup, fruit, newspapers — drop these into the George Longley Building on Tuesdays in the afternoon please.

Please hope and pray for fine weather on October 23.!

Thank you to all who have helped with a willing pair of hands, kind encouraging words and donations to BotaniKIDS events in 2013 .

Julie Bradby
Convenor Educating Group and BotaniKIDS



Lots of things to do!

- Still life drawing
- Summer crown
- Texture rubbing
- Impressing the grandparents!
- Having fun!

Back to basics play day:

October 23

'Just Imagine!'

LAKE WENDOUREE AND GARDENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LWAGAC):

- Lake Wendouree and its perimeter are in excellent health. Water quality is very good on all measurable criteria.
- The water level is over full, as can be seen in various parts around the lake.
- Three weed cutters are currently operating and most of the water is now clear and open. Major aquatic events will be able to be staged in tip top conditions.
- Rainbow and brown trout liberated continuously over the past three years have now reached peak condition, many being caught in excess of 2.5 kg.
- Much tree work has been done around the lake, removing dying and damaged trees, and planting new, more appropriate ones in their place.
- The first of a number of drinking fountains to be installed at intervals around the lake was officially 'commissioned' last week. Installation of lighting around the track will take place over the next few months.
- The fernery restoration project has effectively stalled due to a lack of Council funding in this current budget year. Ballarat City Council, with input from the FBBG, needs to develop plans for a major fund-raising effort. Mike Sorrell

Are you a regular reader of local media?

The Friends still require newspaper articles that mention the FBBG and its members to be collected for our archives.

This is a simple task which could be shared by a small group of friends. If you would like to be involved it would require only a small amount of your time.

Please contact a Committee member or Genevieve on 03 53429354 at the George Longley Centre.



August General Meeting

The Friends' August General Meeting was entertained by guest speaker Patrice O'Shae, Secretary of the Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens, Daylesford.

Patrice presented a slide-show of historic photos and current views of the gardens. The Daylesford gardens have re-emerged from many years of neglect and especially in the last three years since acquiring a new 'friend' in Stuart Rattle, well-known Melbourne interior designer.



Guest Speaker Patrice O'Shae and Friends' Member Pam Coghlan at August General Meeting



Mike Sorrell troubleshoots the AV system for Patrice.

The Wombat Hill Gardens have been the recipient of healthy financial support from the opening of Stuart's property "Musk Farm" (\$65,000 in two days). The funds raised have provided the Daylesford Friends with the ability to restore the fernery and cascade on the south side of the gardens. They were hoping to plant out new ferns by the middle of September.

Musk Farm will open this year on the weekend of November 23 and 24.

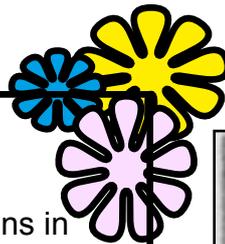
Michael Bird

GROWING FRIENDS:

The Growing Friends are preparing for Gardens in Spring and Springfest. We are busy preparing plants for sale, along with moving benches and pots so that the gravelled area opposite the George Longley Building can be re-surfaced. This will ensure that we have a safe and level surface to walk on.

We have also been busy re-stocking the trolley outside the Conservatory, as it has been a popular spot for plant sales recently. We hope that this will continue as the weather gets warmer.

Beryl Plummer



Don't be so sad!

Look out for Summer Wellingtonia 2014 in Feb!

BALLARAT GARDENS IN SPRING



October 25 to 27, 2013

Program details have been released for this, our **6th Annual Ballarat Gardens in Spring**. Our promotional brochure and advertising opportunities was sent out some weeks ago.

As you are aware tickets are limited for our popular Speakers Luncheon scheduled for Friday October 25. Guest Speakers this year are:

- Andrew Laidlaw – an award winning landscape designer, associated with the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and ABC radio gardening expert.
- Talei Kenyon – The Diggers Club, Communications and Education Manager.
- Steven Wells – nurse, horticultural therapist, gardener and garden designer.

Again a selection of gardens will be opened in Ballarat – some for the first time.

This year's gardens are in Ballarat East (Peter and Meredith Todd and 'The Old Curiosity Shop'), Soldiers Hill (Kaye Deutscher-Watson and Trevor Watson) and Lake Wendouree (Ballarat Specialist School and Helen and Haydn Vincent).

It's always a delight and a real treat to visit other private gardens and share their wisdom and appreciate their creativity and hard work.



Did you get your copy of the 'Ballarat Gardens in Spring' pamphlet in the mail?

OFFER 1



**SPOT ON POTS
AND NURSERY**

**10%
OFF**

**13-15 Wallis St
Delacombe**

OFFER 2



**FORMOSA
GARDENS
NURSERY**

**5%
OFF**

**104 Leith St
Ballarat**

OFFER 3



**GROWMASTER
BALLARAT**

**10%
OFF**

**9527 Western
Highway Ballarat**

OFFER 4

**Blackwood
Ridge
Nursery**

**10%
OFF**

**Trentham-
Greendale Rd**

THE ROY MOSMAN ARCHIVE (Born 6 January 1914, Died Ballarat 2005)



Roy was born in a tent on the banks of the Murray at Mildura, one of five children born to the Mosman family. His father was Swiss, an apprentice gardener at the St Moritz hotel, who after meeting with a member of the Rothschild family, gardened at that family's estate in England. Mr Mosman Snr furthered his gardening experience at the Kew Gardens under Joseph Hooker before immigrating to Australia in 1909 with his English bride. The intention was to farm but this was not a success. He went to work for Ben Chaffey in Mildura. (Chaffey was one of the founding fathers of Mildura, a pioneer of the Mildura Irrigation System, a pastoralist and racing identity.)

Mrs Mosman valued "a good education", so the family moved to Ballarat, where her husband gained work at the Ballarat Hospital under John Ross. He remained in that role for the rest of his working life.

Roy did receive "a good education" and, having qualified as an accountant, began his working life at the Morley Woollen Mills, in the office of the Anglican Registrar and at Heinz and Gordon, Solicitors, but his passion was gardening. He learnt a lot about gardening under his father's watchful gaze. He was a long-standing member of the Ballarat Horticultural Society, holding many roles on its Committee.

Roy was a foundation member of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Garden, with a special interest in its history, and this saw him appointed inaugural History Convenor. In this role, which he occupied until his death, he gave many talks on different aspects of our Gardens. This provided an invaluable record to which we still refer and forms the foundation of our Archive named in his honour – the Roy Mosman Archive housed in the office of the George Longley Building.

Kathleen Hobson and Lorraine Powell

BALLARAT GARDENS TENANTS GROUP REPORT:

New lighting has been installed in the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre (RCHC). There is a need for dimming controls to be added.

The capacity of the RCHC, based upon OH&S and legal considerations, has been determined to be 57. This includes the seven Ballarat City Council staff occupying office space in the building. This rather arbitrary determination (based upon square metres) will be reassessed in light of minor structural alterations that should increase the legal capacity considerably. (Note: *In fact the capacity is under review before the Spring Luncheon event. Ed.*)

A new table has been ordered for laptop/data projector setup as well.

Mike Sorrell

More about Tim Entwisle – Patron of OUR Gardens!

The Age reported (September 2) that Tim has been honoured by having a rare seaweed named after him. The feathery red seaweed is so rare that less than a dozen examples are known to exist.

The newly described seaweed (*Entwisleia bella*) "is found growing only on submerged rocks in a Derwent River estuary, south of Hobart, and only in summer."

Tim is a world expert in fresh-water algae. A new order of algae "*Entwisleiales*" has also been named in Tim's honour.



Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Information 2013

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 53429354

Meetings and Events:

- Thursday, October 17 **'George Longley Day' 5 pm** - members are invited to join us when we remember the founding Curator in the George Longley Building. Refreshments will be served.
- Friday, October 25 **Spring Lunch & Events;** to be held in the Robert Clark Centre and Conservatory. Guest speakers: Andrew Laidlaw, Talei Kenyon and Steven Wells. **Bookings essential**
10 am - 3.30 pm
- Monday, October 28 'Duneira', Macedon & Cameron Lodge Visit. **A few seats left!**
- Monday, November 11 Melbourne Herbarium Visit
- Thursday, November 28 Xmas BBQ 6 pm. Robert Clark Centre



MEETING TIMES 2013

Meetings are held in the George Longley Building at the rear of the Robert Clark Centre:

Committee - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 3.30 pm

Growing Friends - Tuesday each week 1 pm--4 pm, and the second Sunday each month, 1 pm--4 pm.

Plant Sales at the above times and 9 am -5 pm daily from the trolley outside the Conservatory.

Guiding Friends - 4th Tuesday each month 10 am.

History Group -1st Tuesday each month 4 pm.

Educating Friends – 2nd Tuesday each month, 10 am.

Plant Labelling as required.

Educating Friends Activities 2013

Wednesday, October 23 – **Big Garden Day**
(22 October booked for preparation)

Tuesday, November 12 – Coffee and Cake

December 4 – Christmas Activity 11 am to 3 pm

10% Discount applies to purchases
by Friends from
the Robert Clark Conservatory!



Sue Beck, Julie Bradby, Anne King and Ian Salathiel (hiding) at a Friends General Meeting earlier this year.

This newsletter is the first to be produced by an outside contractor. No longer will the staff at the Conservatory have to photocopy our four editions each year; nor will the small band of volunteers – who risked paper cuts and staple lacerations – have to give up their valuable time to collate, staple and stuff envelopes! No Friends were injured in the production of this newsletter. Ed.