

Wellingtonia

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NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:



I have been missing from action during March. I was there for the AGM on February 17 but missed the busy March time with our Begonia Festival. I hope to be back soon. **Robert Selkirk** is acting President in my absence, and I thank him most sincerely for stepping into that role again.

The committee were very happy with our AGM. We all worked hard to make it enjoyable and successful, and we were blessed with the weather on the day and by the support of members and special guests.

In keeping with the theme of this issue of *Wellingtonia* and while on enforced rest and recovery I will do some musing on our 40th anniversary and its meaning for our organisation.

I came to Ballarat in 1983, the year after FBBG was started, and that seems so long ago.

Think of the individuals that have come and gone and think of the ones that have stayed for many of these 40 years. Garden treasures are not just the plants but also the people who worked and cared for the Gardens in these past 40 years. It is these people that have built up the traditions and respect that this organisation has.

When did we start with quarterly meetings? Where did we meet before Robert Clark Horticultural Centre? How did we operate before we had the George Longley Building?

I know the Guides started early but when did all the other groups start? Will there be agreement among the members as to what have been the most memorable and significant happenings in that time? Similarly with the speakers, excursions and special events/activities – what ones stand out?

I hope there is that enjoyable conversation among the members this year as we reflect and appreciate what has occurred over 40 years.

**SPECIAL
EDITION!**

**Pages 7 to 10
pull out!**

Our organisation has changed so much in that time from when it started in February 1982 as a small group of 11. Their immediate focus was on organising tours of the Gardens and researching for information to do so.

There was very strong connection between the Gardens and the City of Ballarat. **Bob Whitehead**, Director of Parks and Ballarat Botanical Gardens, and **Ian Smith**, the Town Clerk (precursor to the CEO position of today) were two key leaders of the Friends in these early days.

A different world then – no emails, no internet, and the only specialised group with a Convenor was the Guides. There was no 'Eden of Loveliness', no *Garden Explorer* website providing access to so much information about the gardens.

Today FBBG is an umbrella group for a number of specialised groups and our community connect to the gardens in so many different ways. **BotaniKIDS** and its focus on pre-schoolers immersing them in nature play and education was not a goal of the Friends in '82.

It is a both **changed** and a **changing** world we work in now.

Some things however don't change, and our focus is essentially the same as when the 1982 group formed – to promote these gardens and stimulate their community use.

We continue to honour the special heritage within these gardens. The gardens are a living museum. The gardens are part of a precinct that offers so much in close proximity for visitors.

During 2022 we will see progress in the gardens of the emerging Fernery precinct with its gothic style reconstructed building and contemporary modern design landscape. This will add to the uplifting, relaxing and educative experience for visitors to the gardens. FBBG focuses on the botanical aspects of the precinct - its trees and plants and collections of wide botanical interest, including the new native plant collection. In this same precinct we also have the more natural resource areas of the wetlands and **Fairyland**. Add in marble and bronze statuary, heritage and contemporary buildings, Lake Wendouree, museums,

continues page 2...

Please note: In this publication some abbreviations are used for simplicity sake: FBBG = Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens; CoB = City of Ballarat; RCHC = Robert Clark Horticultural Centre; GLB = George Longley Building



**THE BALLARAT FRIENDS
WILL CELEBRATE
OUR 40 YEARS
LATER THIS YEAR.
SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER.
MORE DETAILS SOON.**



**Patron of the Ballarat
Friends:**

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



See what Tim's been
up to recently on page 5.

..from page 1

cottages, plant sales and it all adds to the appeal of a visit to the Gardens. So much potential in this site to interest our tourists.

It is said we reinvent ourselves in some ways every decade. Approaching a new decade for the Friends we need to be thinking what next for us, and working out a road map to give direction for the years ahead.

Not hard to guess that growth in numbers will be what we face.



Part of the large crowd at the recent AGM held outside on the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre lawn. President Terry O'Brien in fine voice.

Although we have two buildings now, (the Gatekeeper's Cottage and George Longley Building), catering for the needs of all groups is becoming harder. Office work which requires quiet productive space does not work alongside a meeting of a social group. In the past, Tuesday was the day all groups would converge on George Longley Building. That may have worked with smaller numbers but now we have groups spread throughout the week using the building. Even storage for the different groups still challenges us.

The nursery is very busy on Tuesdays and at some stage expanding the days and catering for the needs of special groups will need to be looked at. It is an area of FBBG that appeals to many. Our divided nursery site with the road has prompted the moves to consider alternatives that will help the growth of FBBG and its nursery.

Some of the traditional ways of engaging in these gardens may change. Digital access via **Garden Explorer** will become the source for information for many. The role of a Botanic Garden is to promote learning and engagement about plants.

We will need to reach out and engage audiences in projects related to climate change, bio-diversity conservation, edible gardening, enhancing food security and values of trees. We need to engage groups that have previously been under served by our programs. Social media, marketing will become increasingly important to make connection within the community.

You compare a Begonia Festival Program 10 or 20 years ago to the one this year. Creative appeals and a bit of quirkiness helps to connect. FBBG have to do the same. Julie has demonstrated how successful Facebook use is with the BotaniKIDS program.

We heard at our AGM about our ageing irrigation infrastructure and the need for investment. Increase in membership will help us support projects and activities in the Gardens. With that in mind we are also reaching out to corporate members to join us as good community citizens to help us with our mission of supporting and connecting the community to these gardens.

The benefits that come with FBBG membership apply widely. All age groups gain from botanical wisdom and benefit from networking, using opportunities to develop skills and personal attributes, contributing to the community and helping others.

We need to work at attracting and engaging younger members. The culture within FBBG has to be supportive and attractive to all age cohorts. It is these younger people who will look after the gardens tomorrow.

Younger people with their work and family commitments often require more flexibility and may not be so interested committing to a regular time slot. Contribution to a one-off project may be their approach. Digital volunteering to a one-off social media content creation is one example. Sharing photos or social media research is another. Contributing to these gardens does not always mean face to face volunteering.

To make our organisation sustainable we need to take guidance from an old Chinese proverb: *'If you want one year of prosperity grow grain. If you want 10 years of prosperity grow trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity grow people'*.

Time and energy are to be put into growing and supporting our community. Experiment with different ways to engage the range of interests, needs and ages in our community.

The pandemic has stretched our public resources but at the same time our world has shrunk to more local focus and so our gardens have become more visible and have the public's attention. This public asset is imbued with a great sense of civic pride. We will need to continue to engage with both council and local community on behalf of the Gardens. Acting together and tapping into that resurgence of community spirit for these gardens and helping unlock their potential will be our common cause.



The Friends Committee at its March meeting used the new meeting room in the wonderful Tramway Museum. Pictured above l to r: Carole Haines, Julie Bradby, Kim Nolan, Robert Selkirk, Doff Kemp, Geoff Notman and Julie Chandler.

As we talk about the road ahead you can see the constant importance of digital connection. We are in transition. Many of our key workers in our organisation are not strong on digital skills and we are looking to that younger more digitally savvy members coming through to help us.

Forty years of achievements for the Friends to honour! Now is also the time to focus on making this organisation sustainable for **another 40 years.**

Terry O'Brien

'We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.' Abraham Lincoln

Our upcoming events.



40th Anniversary Evening (to replace the Event postponed on the 3rd February, 2022). Information on the event will be included in our **Winter Wellingtonia** following further planning for the presentation of our 40th Anniversary Certificates later in 2022. We will have a **special Guest Speaker** join us for the evening. **LOOK for these details in our Winter Newsletter and Emails.**

Open Gardens - Saturday, April 2, from 10 am to 4 pm. We now have three central Ballarat gardens open **exclusively** for the Friends! The garden owners - (Carman and Brett Knight, Robert and Christine Selkirk and Merrill and Arthur Shulkes) - are looking forward to sharing their gardens this Autumn with FBBG, family and friends. Entry to all three gardens is free of charge.

For addresses and descriptions, see the separate flier in this edition of *Wellingtonia*.

General Meeting - Thursday May 19, 10 am to 12.30 pm. Come along and hear '*What is happening in our natural resources region - Wetlands and Fairyland*'. Find out about the City of Ballarat plans for these important areas close to our Gardens and have the chance to ask questions. Venue is Robert Clark Centre.

Heritage Festival - May 20 to 29. Building on from the success of 2021 when we highlighted *Ferns and the Fernery*, our chosen theme for Heritage Week is the 'Oak tree' (*Quercus*). The Friends are assembling displays on Oak trees for this week and will have a large presentation about Oaks in the Conservatory.

Sunday May 22 - come along to hear about '*The Stories Behind the Oaks*'. Listen to our guest John Hawker at 2 pm speak on his expertise around the many species of Oaks followed by a guided tour of our many Ballarat oaks (organised by the Guiding Group) You can also see a special Oak exhibition by the History Group in the Conservatory (on display for the entire Heritage Festival).

Christmas in July! - Sunday July 17. Join us for celebrations and nibbles in the Robert Clark Centre. Why not bring a friend to meet some of **our** Friends and who might be interested in joining the Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens? More details in the Winter edition of *Wellingtonia*.

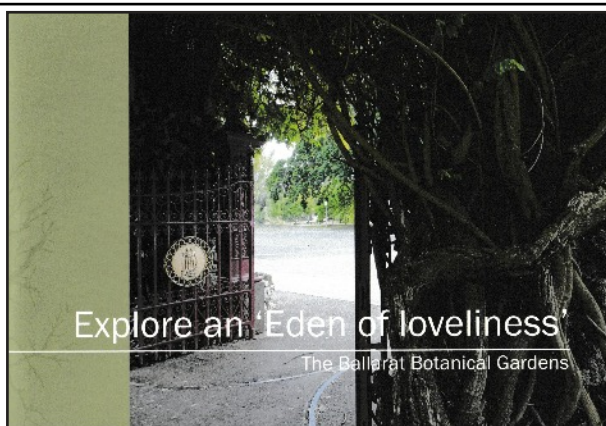
General Meeting - Thursday, August 18, 10 am to 12.30 pm. A Royal Melbourne Botanical Gardens of Victoria representative, Dr Daniel Olsen, will be speaking on the topic of '*New Projects at the RBGV on non-seed plants in Victoria*'. Dr. Olsen is a botanist and will focus on projects in relation to mosses and ferns.

Spring Open Gardens. Planned for Saturday and Sunday 28 and 29 October. More details to follow.

Spring Speakers Luncheon - Friday, November 18, 9.45 am to 2.30 pm in the Robert Clark Centre, with a delicious lunch provided by Peter Ford Catering in the atmospheric Conservatory. Guest speakers are: Lisa Ellis and **Simon Trebilcock**. Lisa is from 'Lisa Ellis Gardens' and will talk on '*Landscapes in Focus*' showing a selection of gardens she has created and the design briefs that shaped them. Should be great to glean some design ideas for our gardens! Simon's talk is titled '*Potager Gardens - where ornamental and productive gardens meet!*'

Carole Haines, Events Convenor

'She didn't date the gardener for long. He was too rough around the hedges'. (Obviously not from Ballarat. Ed.)



Explore an 'Eden of Loveliness'. New this year to celebrate our 40th birthday year. Limited print run. \$10



Here's something new. The landscaping between the toilets on Wendouree Parade and the Gatekeeper's Cottage has been started. Planting out soon.

SAD NEWS FOR MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS:

Recently the Friends have been informed of serious illnesses and surgery needed by some of our members. In addition we were very shocked and saddened to be informed recently of the deaths of three of our stalwart members – Bob Whitehead, John Garner and Wes Howlett. All three were real gentlemen and displayed a generosity of spirit rarely seen today. MB



BOB WHITEHEAD: Bob had a long time relationship with the Ballarat Friends, and was a member of the founding committee in 1982. He passed away in February this year. Bob was a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the 2016 Australia Day Honours. His passion for horticulture and long contribution to community service, particularly in Ballarat. He had a long history of working in local government and was Director of Parks and Ballarat Botanical Gardens from 1978-89. In the late 1980s Bob created the Lake Esmond Botanic Gardens of Natural Flora. Bob and was also a keen supporter of the Begonia Festival. His unassuming nature, good humour, kindness and his many and varied community service contributions means he is remembered with sincere gratitude and fond affection."

At the time of his OAM award, Bob said, "It's quite an honour to be recognised in such a way. I'm very humbled about it," he said. "I look back and I would say I have had a very fortunate life. I am very grateful." A lovely man. **Michael Bird & Terry O'Brien**

JOHN GARNER: What a loss to so many! Dr. John Garner lived and contributed to a full and rich life through his family and friends and the medical profession.



I got to know John in his retirement when we were members of the Friends Guiding group. There he contributed gently and strongly to that group and all of us liked his sense of humour and the interesting perspectives he would share with us.

Because of his wife Joan's long commitment and involvement with the Friends he was always the source you would look to for help to get the correct information on topics and issues as they came up. His association with the Friends is 40 years.

Around about 2014 the Guides worked on new brochures and John contributed very significantly to the text for the *Statues* brochure. John was also a strong contributor to the U3A classes conducted by the Guides. He not only led many sessions and prepared informative presentations but was always there helping with the set up and making the sessions run smoothly. He was committed to making these classes a very worthwhile experience for all involved.

He was a leader but also a team contributor. He was a very effective presenter and his presentations on tours and special public tour events added very much to the quality of what was achieved. He enjoyed the detective work involved in historical research and loved following up leads and connections and expanding our understanding of our history. I admired his approach of making history dynamic and not static. Many of these historical pursuits were shared in John's Jottings in '*Wellingtonia*'.

John was a significant contributor to the Friends' History group as well, displaying keen intellect and tenacity in following through on the topics he was investigating.

Over the years much of my understanding and knowledge of the history of these gardens has been through shared knowledge from John. His comprehensive notes on many topics is a very valuable resource for those wanting to delve into the history of the Ballarat gardens.

John will leave behind many legacies due to a lifetime of many contributions on many fronts. For the Friends we have the memories of a well-liked man who treated us all with such respect and courtesy and built up a treasure of research material to share with us.

Thank you, John, for the passion and diligence that are part of this. At this time our thoughts are with Joan and the Garner family. **Terry O'Brien**



WES HOWLETT: IT IS WITH DEEP REGRET that we announce the death of **Wes Howlett**, late of Meadow Gardens Retirement Village, Delacombe.

Wes was a stalwart member of the Growing Friends and sadly passed away in December 2021. He was a member for many years.

Wes volunteered his time in the nursery week in week out, potting up thousands of plants during that time! He also helped out with BotaniKIDS at Begonia Festivals and participated in Friends excursions and functions.

Wes always had a smile on his face and even tried his hand at baking goodies for the Growers' afternoon tea! - the group will sorely miss him!

Kim Nolan



RARE GOODENIA ALSO UNCOMMONLY PURPLE

A rare plant thriving in garden setting? Not that unusual really but this is a great example. As is the Wollemi Pine, flourishing all over world except the tropics, albeit susceptible to over and under watering (or poor drainage). Similarly the Dawn Redwood and I guess we could include the ginkgo.



My feature plant today is much smaller, but a cheery little plant nevertheless. It's the Pinnate Goodenia, *Goodenia macmillanii*, a species only known from a few locations in eastern Victoria. It doesn't even creep up into New South Wales, so it's a true Victorian endemic.

There are some 200 species of Goodenia, with most of them in Western Australia, and only a couple found outside Australia (northward to the Philippines). According to VicFlora, the Pinnate Goodenia grows on 'rocky, forested or scrubby slopes in rain-shadowed valleys of the Macalister, Snowy and Deddick Rivers'.

The first specimen of this species collected for science was by Angus MacMillan, a settler/explorer of Gippsland. He collected it from near the Macalister River, a river he first named in English. The species was given its botanical name, honouring MacMillan, by my predecessor Ferdinand von Mueller, in 1859.

Most goodenias have yellow flowers. In fact all species from the eastern side of Australia are yellow-flowered except for this one, and sometimes *Goodenia grandiflora*.

You can read more of Tim's offerings at: <https://talkingplants.blogspot.com/> OR just search on line for 'Talking Plants'

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF BOTANIC GARDENS:

The second highly successful **Botanical Tour of Tasmania**, led by AAFBG President Kate Heffernan, took place late February to early March and included eight from Ballarat. Many wonderful garden and other experiences were part of an itinerary that was specially designed by AAFBG Committee members to appeal to a wide variety of botanical interests. It is likely a third trip will take place later this year.

Memorable visits included the gardens of historic properties Culzean and Strathmore as well as Old Wesleydale and Wychwood, where we were warmly welcomed and given tours by the owners. All these gardens featured magnificent trees and our appreciation and enjoyment of them was reinforced by a visit to the Tasmanian Arboretum where volunteers continue to add to the already impressive collection of over 4,800 trees. A visit to the Colonial artist John Glover's home at Patterdale allowed us to appreciate the huge amount of research and dedication required to faithfully restore a derelict property, including the artist's studio and the garden. We spent the last day of the tour on Bruny Island, visiting the highly acclaimed Inala Jurassic Garden, a botanic garden that seeks to provide insight into the ancient connections of plant families. We then toured Sprockelwood, a garden that is deeply personal and the ongoing creation of two artists. A new addition to the itinerary was the visit to the Native Plant Nursery and Reserve at Windsor Community Precinct, Launceston. Here volunteers are being supported by the local council to propagate hundreds of native plants for sale as well as for use in nearby parkland. A former wetland adjacent to the Tamar River is being transformed into a vital community asset by two council employees, demonstrating that when a council and a volunteer organisation work closely together much can be achieved.



Nominations for the **2021 Handbury Awards** will be judged prior to the 2022 AAFBG Biennial Conference. The awards will be presented at Welcome Drinks on Friday, April 29 by Dr Philip Moors, AAFBG Patron.

The organising Committee of the **2022 AAFBG Biennial Conference April 29 - May 1** at Eurobodalla near Batemans Bay, NSW is putting the finishing touches to the program. All invited speakers are confirmed, including Professor Tim Entwisle who is giving the keynote address. Delegates can look forward to an inclusive, rewarding and stimulating experience that will empower them to return to their Friends groups better equipped to deal with important issues such as attracting and retaining younger, active members. Don't miss the opportunity to engage with Friends from many other botanic gardens.

*Register now on www.friendsbotanicgardens.org or www.erbg.org.au

There will be a special presentation from the Maroochydore Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens who have offered to host the **2024 AAFBG Biennial Conference**.

Very recently the AAFBG has sent messages of support to member gardens and individual members adversely affected by the recent floods and advocated on behalf of the Friends of the Australian Arid Lands Botanic Gardens at Port Augusta for ongoing funding from the South Australian Government. The FAALBG were recipients of two Handbury Awards in 2021.

Report by Merrill Shulkes AAFBG Committee Member and FBBG representative

Continued from the Summer 2021-2 edition of Wellingtonia:

BELOW IS AN EDITED VERSION OF TOM BEAUMONT'S SPEECH AT BALLARAT EAST ROTARY LATE 1970s:



Tom Beaumont, AOM, BEM
Superintendent 1947 - 1978

A few years later (in 1958) the Queen Mother made a visit. She came on a Sunday afternoon arriving in the town by train. On the Saturday night I worked until very late, I went home to bed at 12 o'clock I woke up with a start that something was not right. So I came down to the Gardens with my wife we had a look around and everything seemed alright and we stopped there until 2 o'clock. It was a lovely evening and we went home to sleep.

At about 3.15 a.m. there was a knock on my window. I was asked to come down to the Gardens and

that they had been wrecked. I arrived about 3.30; the police were there, (and) the Mayor Jack Chisholm and the Town Clerk.

It was the police that found the damage because there were a lot of post and rails to be placed out for the crowd on the Sunday and these were all strewn across the road.. Right where the Queen Mother was to have gone there was not one plant left in the flower bed. They were all ripped out and torn to pieces. Soil was kicked out of the bed, just a mess.

By 5.30 I had two of my staff there and using the little Council van we moved a bed from further up the Gardens and replanted the whole thing by 9.30. We were fortunate that those staff who were able to turn out so quickly.

The new glasshouse is on the site of the previous one. The previous one was built in 1906 to compete against the southern end of the Gardens at a cost of £129 . It wasn't elaborate but it was efficient. The new one was built in 1959 at a far greater cost.

A lot of people ask "Why was the hedge maze removed?"

It is a pity that it had to be removed it was past repair due to acts of vandalism. They'd run their cars over the hedge and break it down in sections; burn the sections down and also burn the stand down in the middle. It was replaced about five years later by the paddling pool built by Rotary using volunteer labour, the children got a lot of enjoyment out of it.

The begonias were being grown at the Gardens when I first started there. They are probably bigger now and are sourced from England from a reputable company. I'm happy to say that a former member of my staff left a legacy when he died to purchase new novelty begonias and we are still purchasing these when they become available.

A question was put to Mr Beaumont re vandalism in the Gardens. "I would say that it is going on all the time. It is true that I am not allowed to go out and check and that I have to call the police. However one night I did go out to check and I prevented a young man from drowning in the lily pond.

One morning I was walking around the Gardens and the tree that was planted by the Duke of Gloucester was cut into three parts. You often wonder... Why?



The Queen Mother with the Mayor, Cr. Jack Chisholm
and Mrs Eleanor Chisholm. 1958



Caught in the act! The lack of a fence along the Wendouree
Parade boundary was an open invitation to vandals in cars!



Often the Prime Ministers were the victim of vandalism. We go up one morning and John Curtin was missing. We hunted everywhere for it, the police are notified. In the middle of the afternoon about a month later a couple on their honeymoon from WA reported a man's head in the lilypond. They really thought that someone had come to a sticky end. In fact it was Curtin's bust. But we never found Whitlam or John Gorton. During the war we found Billy Hughes sitting on a post down at Leigh Creek!

I hope I'm judged on just what I have done- I hope to go out with the best wishes of my Council and my staff."

Tom Beaumont.

Thanks to Helen Robarts, Tom Beaumont's daughter for supplying the story and Lorraine Powell for the photos

HAPPY 40TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE BALLARAT FRIENDS

A SNAPSHOT OF THE FRIENDS!

The Ballarat Friends group was started in 1982 by a small group of people passionate about their Gardens and wanting to attract like minded people to organise tours of the Gardens. Realising that they needed more research on the history of the Gardens it took another 10 years before change was made to make the Ballarat Friends more accessible to the public and to encourage more community support.

The founding members were Tom Beaumont OAM, BEM, Eleanor and Jack Chisholm MBE, Heather Dick, Winston Loveland, Eileen Lawrie, Jack May, Jean Oddie, Mary Redman, Enid and Frank Rogers, Marion and Roy Mosman, Ina Clamp, Jessie Scott, Ian Smith and Bob Whitehead.

A public meeting was held at the Town Hall in November 1992 and this led to the group becoming incorporated with articles of association and a much more formal organisation evolving.

A committee of 19 members was formed and sub-committees set up.

Ian Rossiter, Senior Parks Officer with the City of Ballarat (non-voting member of the 1992 committee) shared some memories with us. Ian, who still lives in Ballarat, recalls the initial 1982 group was a small select group of mainly older people. Back then the Gardens were seen more as a pleasure park with the main focus on the extremely popular annual Begonia Festival.

Refocusing at the 1992 public meeting included the need to set articles of association, set a price on membership and look at special interest groups being formed, such as a guiding group and history group.

The Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens interacted with other Friends groups and hosted the first regional conference for the Association of Friends of Botanical Gardens.

There were three cottages right in the Botanical Gardens. The one housing the Gardens Curator (Bob Whitehead) was situated right where the Robert Clark Centre is. When Ian had small children he lived in one of the cottages and recalls how his daughters regarded the Gardens as their play space and loved watching the weddings held on the lawns on Saturdays!

According to historical records the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens has raised funds for many projects including the restoration of the Claxton Monument, McDonald Gates, signage in the Gardens, redevelopment of the Western Beds and many donations to the Begonia Festival over the years.

In all, these funds add up to close to \$1 million!

And it has been the Friends Nursery through the Growing Friends group providing most of this income!

Truly amazing!

Wendy Taylor



*Founders of FBBG at the Robert Clark Centre, 13 April 2010
L-R Eleanor Chisholm, Eileen Lawrie, Bob Whitehead, Pat Fiske (early member before incorporation) and Winston Loveland. Absent: Ian Smith*



At the March 2022 AGM were five of the Friends' Presidents. L to R: current President Terry O'Brien, Raoul Dixon, Lorraine Powell, Elizabeth Gilfillan and Robert Selkirk.

'I REMEMBER WHEN....'

Presidents of the Friends share some thoughts...

Elizabeth Gilfillan: Being part of and President of the FBBG has been a great honour and pleasure. I have witnessed the growth and progress of the Friends with amazement and enjoyment. I have met with wonderful people along the way. I have always been very grateful for the public benefaction and volunteer contribution in our Gardens and consider it a privilege to continue the legacy of giving back.



Highlights during my Presidency included the move to the George Longley Building, and in 2012 the City of Ballarat accepted the Fernery Proposal made possible by the Friends, with a commitment of funds by the City. The development of the Fernery continues to be a major quest of great importance to our world class Gardens.

Celebrating 30 years of FBBG with contribution and launch of our book *An Eden of Loveliness* in 2012. Inception of a Friends Patron and introduction of Prof. Tim Entwisle in 2013 as a happy beneficial partnership, bringing his experience, expertise and friendship.

In December 2013 the FBBG facilitated a meeting with CoB and consequent appointment of a Botanical Consultant, Mark Richardson, to undertake work on a Visionary Plan for our Ballarat Botanical Gardens, into the next many years. Mark came highly recommended by Prof. Tim Entwisle, this became the adjunct to the already developed BBG Masterplan and the two remain relevant today. The formation of the first Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Ballarat and signing in January 2014 this document now brings the two organisations together to advocate for our Gardens.

More recently I had the great pleasure of help establish the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation Ltd during the presidency of Robert Selkirk. This will stand to good stead in the future for the Friends.

LORRAINE POWELL: My father did like to see a dam wall, and our many family excursions of inspection included picnics in the arboreta attached. This instilled in me a deep and abiding regard for these public open spaces and the (mostly) men who cared for these well labelled places of beauty and learning.



In 1992 I noted a tiny advert in the *Ballarat Courier* calling a meeting in the Trench Room to establish a Friends group. Young family precluded attending but a seed was sown.

Joining in 1994-5, during the construction of the Conservatory, I encountered a welcoming group advocating for the gardens and engaging in interesting activities.

Attending conferences gave insight into the value and breadth of Victoria's botanical gardens, and of Ballarat's special place in this milieu.

My presidential term kicked off with Joan Garner returning from an AAFBG meeting announcing that as Castlemaine could not organise the upcoming conference we would, and by the way, it would be the first National Conference! Our committee rose to the challenge and a joint Ballarat, Castlemaine, Daylesford event was organised. It turned out wonderfully well and all those feet paddling furiously maintained serenity-though we did have to be reminded to submit 'Proceedings'. For me another highlight is our first ever exhibition 'Digging Up the Past', a joint FBBG/CoB/Gold Museum event opened by Weston Bate, but mostly it is the people. Marvellous generous people coming together collaboratively, to do more than any one person could, sharing and developing skills and celebrating this 'Jewel in Ballarat's Crown'.

Raoul Dixon: Beth and I became involved with the Friends shortly after we moved to Ballarat in 1999 when we went on a Sunday guided tour lead by the President, Joan Garner. Joan asked me to take on the Treasurer/Membership Officer role so that started my time on the Committee, culminating in two 3 year terms as President. The first term highlights were the 150th Garden anniversary and the installation of our George Longley Building. The second term was even more eventful with the relocation and renovation of the Gatekeeper's Cottage, the initiation of the very successful Ambassador programme, and marathon discussions and planning with architects and CoB regarding the design and construction of a new Fernery.



Robert Selkirk: Some luncheons can be light-hearted social events, and some can change your life for ever. The latter happened to me in 2017 when my wife suggested I join her at the Spring Luncheon in the Conservatory. By sheer coincidence we shared a table with Raoul and Beth Dixon. We hadn't met before. I wasn't even a member of the Friends!



Our discussion started with me asking about the state of the fernery and why development had stalled. The Dixons replied, 'do you have any contacts at the Town Hall?' I said, 'I'll see what I can do'.

A series of meeting followed into 2018. An agreed position was reached to proceed. Budget \$1.4m.

Due to the illness of the late John King, who was Vice President, I agreed to join the Friends and became President! The importance of succession planning cannot be overstated, as we are now in a very similar position by not having a Vice President.

Terry O'Brien: I enjoyed Guiding and convening the group. After 10 years a change was overdue and so finally said yes to another role in FBBG. I don't think I had estimated the complications that I was adding to my life, but it is rewarding and absorbing.



I think I have taken on the Presidency at an opportune time. FBBG have strong active leadership within its committee, we have people supporting our work and it is a time when the importance of the gardens' role in our community is being more focused on.

FBBG have over the years built up funds to contribute to developing these Gardens and now is another time to see these used. The intention is to contribute to some aspects of the landscaping and other works to help bed our new Fernery building into these gardens. Other projects also are grabbing our attention.

In our 40th year I want the FBBG to be active, have impact and connect with our community through our many groups and activities.

Mike Sorrell:
Congratulations to the FBBG on Forty Years of Service



Members of the Friends are well aware that forty years ago a small band of enthusiastic, community-minded citizens, keen to provide support for the protection, recognition,

development and promotion of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens met and formed the Friends.

Today the Friends have grown into a dynamic and enthusiastic group numbering in the hundreds, inspired by their original aims.

Today's volunteers have opportunities to contribute in a wide range of diversified group activities and interests and gain considerable intrinsic satisfaction from their involvement.

The Friends can be justifiably proud of their achievements and contribution to the reputation of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens as one of finest in the country. May they continue to bloom and grow!

Joan Garner: Few know more about Ballarat's Botanical Gardens than Joan Garner.



She has been a member of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens since 1989, seeing more changes to the gardens over the years than many.

In 2015 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia – the OAM – for her service to the community through conservation and preservation of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

At the time she is recorded as saying, "What a lovely thing to happen to someone like me, who just loves doing what I do."

Over her 25 years as a member, she was president twice. She was also the Ballarat representative on the Association of Friends of Botanical Gardens Victoria and president from 2001-03 during the transition to the national body, the Association of Friends of Botanical Gardens Australia.

For as long as she can remember, the Ballarat Botanical Gardens have been a huge part of her life, something she felt was worth sharing with the rest of the world. Since joining the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, she has been integral in the development of the Conservatory and the Robert Clarke Horticultural Centre.

More recently, the update of the fernery has been a project she has long fought for.

Judith Bailey: I joined the Friends in 1992 when it formed into an Incorporated body and became the Growing Convenor. Later I took on the role of first Engraving Convenor along with a small team creating labels for the trees.



I worked on stalls at Begonia Festivals and in the Children's areas for fundraising and education. The roles of Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and President were all undertaken over the years.

Involvement with the Association of Friends of Botanic Gardens Committee and setting up the first website with Jenny Burrell allowed me to gain wider experience of Botanic Gardens.

Some major involvement included helping to host the first Association of Botanic Gardens Conference. I supported Ian Rossiter with the North Gardens Wetlands project, which has improved the environmental outcome of the North Gardens and Lake Precinct. I participated in lobbying to maintain passive activity in the Gardens areas as an open space. Some people see this as an opportunity to fill up with clutter rather than maintain the space just as open space. I also lobbied early in the piece

for the Fernery to be upgraded as well as supporting the George Longley building project.

Unknowingly at the time, my penultimate contribution was to ask Janene Byrne to prepare a report on opportunities for education in the gardens. And my ultimate contribution was to nominate new member Julie Bradby, for the position of Secretary, and this evolved into the ongoing position of Education Convenor, her forte.

The formation of the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens saw my activities in the Ballarat Gardens Precinct take a step back. More recently I have lobbied for the protection of the natural environment in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and Lake Precinct. I cherish lifelong friendships forged through common interests over the now 30 years,

A big 'Thank You' to the past (and current!) Presidents for making the time to think back and organise these thoughts. Without people like these stepping forward, the Ballarat Friends would not be as successful as it has become.

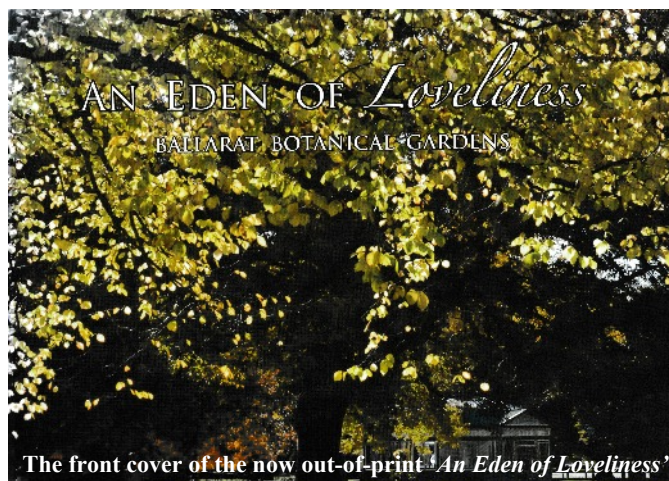
Ballarat Botanical Gardens by Lake Wendouree

(Compiled by The Friends History Group)

"When the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens first formed, one of the projects envisaged for the group was the production of a book. This project lay in the 'to do pile' until, at the suggestion of Past President, Joan Garner, the History Group - Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens - banded together to produce this book in celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

An Eden of Loveliness is a Pictorial History of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The book documents the relationship between the Botanical Gardens and the community, an involvement evident from inception to the present day. (It is not intended to be a comprehensive history.)

A selection of archival photographs and family snapshots sit side by side, chronicling the cultural, education, horticultural and scientific aspects of these Gardens. It uses images from the Ballarat City Council Collection as well as sourcing materials from the Ballarat Library, the Ballarat Art Gallery, The Ballarat Gold Museum, Public Record Office Victoria, Ballarat Archives Centre, The FBBGs' own collection and the community."



OTHER FRIENDS ARE CELEBRATING TOO! (Contributed by Merrill Shulkes)

The Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne



MELBOURNE FRIENDS

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

began in 1982. Concerned citizens recognised that substantial areas of the Gardens needed to be rejuvenated. They saw the need to promote and assist the Gardens by encouraging community involvement and by providing a fundraising mechanism to support

the Gardens and the National Herbarium. In 1986 the Friends Trust Fund was set up to receive donations towards general and specific projects and in 1987 the Friends became incorporated.

Highlights in the development of the Friends over the past 40 years include the opening of the Plant Craft Cottage in 1981 that is now also becoming a community centre for Friends activities. The first fundraising initiative was the very successful *Save the Lake Appeal* in 1982. The Growing Friends held their first plant sale in 1988 and since then twice-yearly seasonal plant sales have been highly profitable.

The Friends' influence has expanded as a direct result of its strong membership (1800) as well as its successful fundraising. In excess of \$3 million has supported critical projects that include the upgrading of the irrigation and watering systems, the Working Wetlands Project, repair and renovation of the historic Plant Craft Cottage, the Oral History Project, Guilfoyle's Volcano, the Fern Gully Redevelopment and the Sensory Garden.

The Melbourne Friends launched their celebrations with a Gardens Morning Picnic on Hopetoun Lawn. The President Lyndsey Poore, gave a brief history of the Friends development including their significant financial contribution. This was followed by a delicious morning tea and the opportunity to reminisce with old friends and acquaintances. In the background there was music provided by a classical guitarist. Celebrations will be ongoing throughout 2022. The Summer 21-22 edition of *Botanic News* features a special article on *Celebrating 40 Years*.

The Friends of Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney (RBG)

was founded in 1982 to support and promote the Gardens. The concept of setting up an independent fundraising body, involving people from outside



the Gardens was novel but successful from the outset, attracting many members from all walks of life who understood the importance of RBG Sydney.

In 2012 the RBG Foundation and the Friends merged to form the Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens, to achieve even greater success in realising their goals. These include encouraging the use and enjoyment of the Gardens that now extend over three sites (Sydney, Mount Annan and Mount Tomah), involving the community in the scientific, educational, horticultural, cultural and recreational functions of the Gardens, being an important link between the Gardens and Domain Trust and promoting, supporting and contributing to the development of RBG Sydney.

Much has been accomplished by the Friends over the past forty years, including substantial financial assistance for a diverse range of projects. These include the development and opening of the Rose Garden at Sydney in 1987 as well as later works such as the Rare and Threatened Plant Collections at Sydney and Mount Tomah, Interpretative Signage for all gardens, Rainforest Seed Conservation, Youth Community Greening, Transformative Learning and Education at the Calyx and the Margaret Flockton Award for excellence in botanical illustration. Their support has also enabled other projects that may otherwise not been funded such as staff scholarships, improving the living collections in the Gardens, as well as enhancing and renovating equipment and facilities.

The Friends are hoping to recognise the achievements and ongoing support of their many members at a celebratory event later this year. Special anniversary articles will be featured in the Winter edition of their *The Garden Magazine*.

GROWING FRIENDS: This year's Begonia Festival weekend saw exceptional monetary rewards from the invaluable contributions of the Growers and volunteers. A total of over \$7100 was received! This included nursery sales, plant trolley sales and takings from the plant crèche- great effort by everyone! And, it was not just the money but the positive outreach to the public, six new memberships with many other application forms taken.

Kim Nolan reported: "Today Costa Georgiadis was filming in the gardens for the ABC's 'Gardening Australia' - a lot on the begonias. Ann Brech and I were there early, so we got the trolley set up. Ann waved to Costa before he went into the Conservatory. He came over to the trolley and we had a really good conversation about the Friends, the plants and our volunteers - he was very interested!



L to R: Bruce Holland, Costa Georgiadis, Rae Shearer, Janet Hill, Susan Rattray and Kim Nolan; Miriam Tonkin at front.

We convinced him to visit our nursery and told him about BotaniKIDS. Unfortunately his schedule for the day was tight with what they were filming so couldn't get to the cottage - he made time to come to the nursery to meet the volunteers. Unfortunately

Convenor Yvonne Curbach wasn't able to be there. Ann and I were sent into a spin as we tried to get our signs put up and get the nursery looking as good as it could!

Ann had a great idea of making a bag with our brochures, newspaper cuttings of latest articles, BotaniKIDS information plus our new booklet. I showed him our book and we gave him a bag. He gave us \$10 as he'd bought a plant for a child at the trolley."



Admin. Volunteer Ann Brech, Costa and Kim Nolan, Friends' Treasurer/Grower

The Day Costa Georgiadis Came to Town (the Gatekeeper's Cottage really!)



Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens Nursery
Specialising in rare groundcovers, perennials, shrubs and succulents

Nursery Open:

Tuesday 1-4 pm, and the second Sunday 1-4 pm

Trolley: Plants available outside the Conservatory during business hours; plants updated daily - Cash honour system

Why not take a look at the plants we have for sale the next time you are enjoying the Ballarat Gardens?

We have a range of named varieties including hardy long flowering plants.

Members \$1 discount off each plant!



Growing Friends Convenor Yvonne Curbach checking the stock of new plants ready for sale or display

MUSIC IN THE GARDENS:



As we prepare to celebrate our Ruby Anniversary, a reflection on past celebrations comes to mind. We were assailed at the Caretaker's Cottage for a recent Christmas breakup, and on another Christmas breakup some classical musicians played for us. For the Gardens 150th Anniversary in 2007 a large series of special events included several musical interludes organised by the redoubtable Sue Beck. In 2005, many musicians played in the Robert Clark Conservatory to celebrate that building's 10th birthday.

The City of Ballarat and its Community Events team held *Sundays in the Park* for several years, and before that there was **Battle of the Bands** and **Carols by Candlelight** at the Soundshell in the North Gardens.

The State Government sent us **Music for the People** complete with harpists and operettas, performing under the capable baton of Hector Crawford on a temporary stage.

Performing at the J.Y. MacDonald bandstand became a regular weekend event from the 1920s, and before that the musicians, trying to defray the travel and accommodation costs associated with competing at the *Ballarat Eisteddfod*, would put out a hat for the promenading public to toss coins into.

Yet, no music would have played on a Sunday without the deliberation of Mr. Fellows, QC.!



Carols by candlelight in the North Gardens, 2014

On the 9 December 1869, twenty men of the cloth from across the denominations waited on the Mayor with a Petition *'believing that the playing of the Volunteer Band in the Botanical Gardens on Sunday is fitted to do much evil, especially in the way of leading the young away from our Sabbath Schools, & moreover looking upon it as an innovation at variance with the sentiments of a large portion of the inhabitants...'*

The mayor took this issue very seriously indeed, seeking the advice of the Borough Solicitor, Mr. Cuthbert.

Cuthbert, in accordance with instruction obtained an opinion *'as to the power of the Council by by-laws or otherwise to prohibit the Volunteer Bands from playing Sacred or Secular Music in the Gardens on a Sunday'*

Mr. Fellows advised that the Borough **could only take such action on property owned by the Borough**. As the Public Park and Gardens are **managed by the Borough**, (or now City), on behalf of the Citizens of Ballarat, we can let the music play on.

Lorraine Powell, member of the Friends History Group

Gardening Folklore: Savvy gardeners know that soil temperature is one of the best indicators when to plant certain seeds. But the modern soil thermometer wasn't invented until 1714 and the association of soil temperature and seed germination rates wasn't established for least another 150 years. So how did the gardeners of old know when it was safe to plant? They had a saying that goes like this -- "If you can sit on the ground with your trousers down, it's safe to sow your seed". (I cannot verify. Ed.)

GARDEN CUTTINGS WITH GREEN THUMB!



- Friends were shocked to learn of the recent deaths of Bob Whitehead, John Garner and Wes Howlett. Wonderful men.
- Big disappointment for the BotaniKIDS team led by Julie Bradby. On the large maps provided free for people attending the Begonia Festival the Gatekeeper's Cottage (and its programs for the long weekend) went sadly missing! Big blunder there!
- Did you know that the road in front of the Cottage (and the public toilets) is actually called Nursery Drive? Well named IF the possible location of the GLB and the Friends Nursery goes ahead. Discussions continue apparently.
- Did you follow the rope and wander through the Fernery on the long weekend of the Festival? What did you think? Has a long way to go to be considered finished. GT would like to see a plan of the landscaping.
- The Friends Committee has approved the purchase of another 'tap point' (using your bank or credit card) for the Growing Friends to use. An alternative to cash or credit/debit cards.
- It has been proposed that the Growing Friends should have 'gift vouchers' for customers to purchase. Mother's Day will never be the same!
- 'At the Edge of the Orchard' by Tracy Chevalier has been suggested by a hard-working Friend as a different kind of gardening book to read. A novel, based on a family in Ohio in 1838. Details the sale of sequoia seeds to merchants in the UK. Maybe here too?
- It was great to see the large crowds back at the Begonia Festival. Thousands on each of the three day of the Labour Day weekend, and many hundreds more each day in the week after. Lots of bus groups. Is Covid over? I don't think so folks!

Until Next Time; keep your secateurs clean and sharp! Green Thumb

VISIT TO ROYAL MELBOURNE BOTANIC GARDENS:

Friends of RMBG invited Ballarat friends to join a tour of their Araucaria collection on February 24. Sue Rattray, Wendy Sandiford and Brian Hay attended and had a really enjoyable day.

Our guide gave a short talk before we commenced the walk, these trees were alive on Gondwana, and survived as the land split and moved to Northern locations. The trees are located now in Eastern Australia, New Guinea, Norfolk Island, New Caledonia and South America. We saw a number of trees from various locations including a collection from New Caledonia. There are a number of Agatha's Robusta Queensland Kauri, these are massive trees and some of the oldest trees in the Gardens. (*)

Our guide spoke about the growth habits, leaves or cones of the different trees to assist with their identification. She carried a dilly bag with samples of leaves, cones or bark which assisted the identification. There are six Wollemi pines in a group that are growing very well. She talked about their discovery and the excitement around the world of such a significant scientific event. Cuttings were taken from the trees, they were auctioned in Sydney by Sotheby's which raised a million dollars. These funds were used to help provide security for the original trees in their unknown location in the National Park.

We visited a tree planted to celebrate the 100th birthday of Dame Elizabeth Murdoch. This is actually the third tree as the two previous trees were stolen a few days after they were planted. There had been a number of thefts prior to this. It was realised there was an avid collector stealing the trees for his own use or selling them. There is a register of trees in Victoria and the thief was identifying trees from the list and removing them. The Gardens' staff have convinced the keeper of the list not to publish the locations of Araucaria trees, this has reduced the thefts.

Brian Hay, a Friends' Guide

(* Interestingly, you can buy an Agatha's Robusta Kauri for just AU \$9.95 on eBay! How big would it be? Ed.)



Looking up into a stand of mature Agatha's Robusta Queensland Kauri



Begonia Festival.

1. BIG bird amid the flowers!; 2. Floral stilt walkers; 3. People lined up in their droves to see the begonias in the Conservatory; 4. The Friends plant trolleys and the Plant Crèche manned by volunteer Friends for the three days of the long weekend.



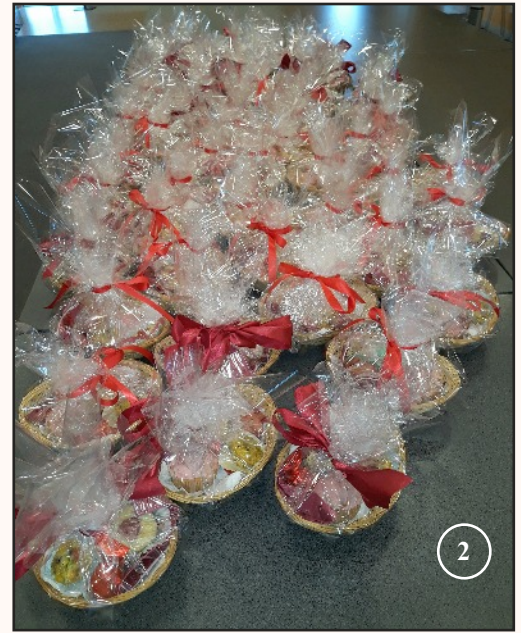
Metro. Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula
12-13 Nov 2022

Regional Victoria 19-20 Nov 2022

The main charity will be Youth Suicide Awareness
(More in next edition of *Wellingtonia*)

SEEN AT THE 'RUBY' AGM IN FEBRUARY.

This year's AGM was held outside on the lawn behind the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre. No changes to the Committee, but there remain vacancies. Peter Marquand, BBG curator, spoke on the issues facing the Gardens concerning its watering system. The cost of replacing the 50+ stations in the 40 year old system is expensive, with a budgeted \$1m approximately already planned.



1, 2 & 3. The Catering Group and their output of 'ruby' treats. 4. Cr McIntosh talks to Terry O'Brien, while Carole Haines chats to Christine & Robert Selkirk; 5. Part of the crowd; 6 Prof. Tim gets feedback on his performance from President Terry O'Brien; 7. *Ballarat Times* photographer shows her skills to Prof. Tim; 8. The Friends had a wonderful time!



Its a 'New Leaf' year for BotaniKIDS!



Hopefully with Covid restrictions now easing we can start to develop some of the programs and ideas over the last two years hence 2022 BotaniKIDS theme is the New Leaf year

The digital microscope is well and truly being used with its beautifully crafted Tasmanian Oak purpose built table. A small smart TV was donated by a 'friend of the Friends' and will suffice as the screen until we can acquire the larger screen for

the wall. This project was wholly supported, funded and managed by The Ballarat BG Foundation from Kevin Delmenico's bequest.

The Frieze of the Evolution of Plants is a superbly created work of art by highly regarded museum freelance curator and artist Fiona Rice also supported by The Foundation, funded through the Delmenico bequest along with added funds donated in memory of Llewellyn and Dorothy Williams' family.

The weekly Nature Explorers Club for under fives has been a great initiative. Each week seems to bring with it new enquiries and requests to join.

Topics we explore are soil, water, flowers, leaves, sticks, bark, trees and seeds. "Water" so far being the most popular after we walked to the lake collected a sample of the water and looked at it under the Magic Eye microscope!

Partnerships with VCAL students at Loreto College is in full swing with students busily making little Nature Explorer packs for the children to use with the students when we are on our nature walk in the Gardens.

We have had great publicity these few months with two newspaper articles and a visit and video from Costa Georgiadis.

Begonia Festival saw our new look approach begin. No longer part of the mainstream within the Gardens this year but opted to use the Cottage as the base for our activity. We continued to offer child friendly activities for the 100's of children and families who visited us during the long weekend. The BotaniKIDS team continued to support the Friends with four days of preparation and managing the activities and all in all it was a great success. Activities we offered were water play, a sensory pathway, painted rock workshop, water-colour painting, bubble making, potting tiny she-oaks, digital microscope, exploring the nature table and nature inspired drawing and colouring on the Children's bench in the Cottage along with reading books from our library shelf on the reading bench.

It was disappointing to note our activities were not advertised as part of the Festival as we offered a wide range of family friendly nature based activities that was very well attended for the three days.

The Cottage supervision and management of the outside activities was supported well by the Friends. Thank you so much for your time and help.

Costa, the *Gardening Australia* ABC host, magically appeared in the Gardens this week and was coaxed over to visit the Cottage on Wednesday March 16. I managed to rustle up some of the children, parents and grandparents at very short notice and we were not disappointed.

It was an hour or two to remember!

Costa was gracious and generous with his time and spoke with parents, grandparents and to the kids of course. His connection



A budding junior scientist at work? One of the BotaniKIDS using the microscope

with all ages is wonderful, with his genuine interest in our BotaniKIDS and Friends' endeavors and in particular the digital microscope, the *Magic Eye* was fantastic.

So much so he posted a live streamed video of his visit on his official Facebook page. He talked his way through a walk through the Cottage noting various aspects of the displays etc he particularly liked.

Follow this link to see the video for yourselves:

<https://www.facebook.com/CostasWorld/videos/427333925828925/>

Sunday Morning Workshops: It is hoped we can plan a years program with bookings via Trybooking. We need to aim for Sundays and not during Saturday Farmers' Markets.

School holiday programs will again link into when possible Ballarat Library themes and presenters.

Nature Botany Club: focus group 6-10 yr olds for after school during Winter 4-5.30 pm utilising the digital microscope

Junior Botanical Art Club: Our family day in the Gardens on a Sunday in November will also be a feature. We hope we can partner with Loreto and Sovereign Hill FOSH team

Farmers Markets are a good opportunity to open the Cottage for visitors to have paper and crayon activities and puzzles on the Children's bench, reading from the Tree Library and the digital microscope being used. This of course needs support from wider membership to help the team supervise.

All in all the team is still excited of possibilities and developing further school resources to facilitate school visits.

We were delighted to receive a \$500 donation towards our program from a generous parent whose children participated in BotaniKIDS. This purchased our much aid vacuum cleaner, a water hose and fittings and it is planned to purchase stools for children to easily access the digital microscope.

Julie Bradby

Photos of Costa's visit are on page 11.

"I love gardening big thyme."

Friends of Ballarat Botanical Gardens 2022

Friends of Ballarat Botanic Gardens Inc.

P.O. Box 33W, Ballarat West 3350

Email: info@fbbg.org.au Website: <https://fbbg.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsBBG>

<https://www.facebook.com/ballaratbotaniKIDS/>



Tel. George Longley Building 03 5342 9354

FBBG COMMITTEE

POSITION	NAME
President	Terry O'Brien
Vice President	Vacant
Past President	Robert Selkirk
Minute Secretary	Natalie Radomski
Treasurer	Kim Nolan
BotaniKIDS / Education	Julie Bradby
Events and Speakers	Carole Haines
Foundation Rep.	Terry O'Brien
PR/Promotions	Wendy Taylor
General member	Jock Gilbert
General member	Lorraine Powell
General member	Geoff Notman
General member	(1 vacancy)
AAFBG rep	Merrill Shulkes
Growing Friends	Yvonne Curbach
Guides	Julie Chandler
History	Vacant
Hospitality	Doff Kemp
Membership	Warwick Sellens
Newsletter Editor	Michael Bird
Western Bed	Vacant
Ambassadors *	Trish Twaits
Botanical Art *	Val Richards

(* non-Committee positions)

FRIENDS COMMITTEE MEETING TIMES 2022

Meetings are held in the George Longley Building subject to Covid-19 regulations (rear of the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre). The BotaniKIDS/Educating Friends meet in the Gatekeeper's Cottage.

Committee:

3rd Tuesday of each month at 4 pm.

Botanical Artists:

Mondays at 10 am during school terms.

Guiding Friends:

4th Wednesdays at 10 am.

Growing Friends:

Tuesdays each week 1 pm to 4 pm, and the second Sunday of each month 1 pm to 4 pm. **Plant Sales** at these times AND everyday from the plant trolleys outside the Conservatory.

BotaniKIDS /Educating Friends:

As required. No set time or day.

History Group:

2nd Thursday each month 2.30 pm.

THE BALLARAT BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION LTD

The Foundation's overriding purpose is to raise funds to provide a strong, sustainable financial basis to support the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

In addition we aim at advancing the natural environment in the Botanical Gardens and, in so doing, advancing and preserving the heritage of the Gardens as a horticultural museum.

Tax deductible donations. Ballarat Botanical Gardens Foundation Ltd.

Banking direct deposit. BSB 633 000. **Account No.** 165027434

Website: www.BallaratBotanicalGardensFoundation.com.au



The Friends' **AMBASSADORS** Group resumes on the weekend of 26th/27th March.

OPEN GARDENS 2022: Apart from the gardens on the flier which came in your package, there will be the 'Garden Designfest' openings in November (see page 13)

TO PAY INTO OUR ACCOUNT:

Please remember to identify yourself when paying into our bank account and **what the payment is for.**

A good method is to use your surname and initial/s as your ID. Please **say what the payment is for** (e.g. membership, bus trip, etc.) The Friends' bank details are: **BSB 633 000 Acc. No. 125334615**

This Newsletter is distributed with the financial assistance of the City of Ballarat.



Robert Selkirk, Terry O'Brien, Tim Entwisle, Merrill Shulkes, Raoul Dixon, Kim Nolan, Warwick Sellens, Wendy Taylor, Julie Bradby, Lorraine Powell, Julie Chandler and Michael Bird all provided photos. Thanks!

Disclaimer: The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens. The Friends of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens does not accept responsibility for statements made or opinions expressed, although every effort will be made to publish reliable and accurate information. **Contributions for the Winter Wellingtonia 2022 are due by early September please.** Michael Bird, Editor.

Editorial Committee: Terry O'Brien, Merrill Shulkes, Wendy Taylor and Michael Bird.